

UPDATES:

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Edition 1 is the first web-based version. Previous versions were prepared in a standard A4 page format.

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Author:

1 PURPOSE

The purpose of this Collector Note is to explore the broad range of (primarily) 'sportsman's knives' that were produced in Sheffield during the late 19th century and early 20th century to identify those that may be regarded as 'private purchase' knives suitable for wartime use by military personnel, predominantly military officers.

The following photos show examples of the range of clasp knives that have some or all of the characteristics that would define a "private purchase military clasp knife". All knives depicted in this Collector Note are from the author's collection (see [Appendix 4.](#)) unless otherwise acknowledged. Some of the material in this Collector Note has been included in the companion Collector Note "19th CENTURY BRITISH SPORTSMEN'S KNIVES", see www.CASK.info



MAPPIN & WEBB horseman's knife, see details [here](#)



JOSEPH RODGERS all metal multiblade sportsman's knife, see details [here](#)



JOSEPH RODGERS, inscribed with owner's name and service details, see [here](#)



THOMAS TURNER "1914 DURALUMIN WAR KNIFE", see details [here](#)

2 CONTEXT

2.1 Background

There is no formal definition, that I am aware of, as to what constitutes a 'private purchase' knife used by British military personnel in wartime. There are some general indicators that distinguish a 'private purchase' knife from a military 'issue' knife, such as:

- It was purchased by (or for) an individual,
- It is not required to conform with any official specification or standard,
- It was not included in any military supply contract.

Historically, perhaps from the mid-19th century, any knife, but particularly one that was advertised by a manufacturer as a 'Sportsman's Knife,' could have been privately purchased and included in the kit of a soldier. The earliest example of a sportsman's knife I have been able to identify that is specifically designed for war service is the "THORNHILL'S RANDOLPH KNIFE" made by "W. THORNHILL & Co LONDON". In an undated trade catalogue published by "WALTER THORNHILL 114 NEW BOND STREET" part of which is included in Ron Flook's 'THE LONDON KNIFE BOOK'¹— at page 172) includes the following quote:

"THORNHILL'S RANDOLPH KNIFE. Designed by Col. Randolph, for service in the Crimea. Contains a large spring blade, small blade, a turnscrew, the sides of which form a file and the edge a cutting file for wire, button hook, gouge, borer,

APPENDIX 1: TIN OPENERS SHOWN IN JOSEPH RODGERS CATALOGUE circa 1912. Pages 46 and 48.

APPENDIX 2: ARMY & NAVY COOPERATIVE STORES CATALOGUE, 1907 – pages 986 – 993

APPENDIX 3: JOSEPH RODGERS CATALOGUE circa 1912

APPENDIX 4: Author's collection of knives with characteristics relevant to a 'private purchase' item.

TYPE 1: 'All metal multiblade sportsmen's knives' – horseman's pattern

TYPE 2: 'All metal multiblade sportsmen's knives' – sportsman's pattern

TYPE 3: 'Champagne pattern' multiblade sportsmen's knives

TYPE 4: "Military Wire Cutter Knife"

TYPE 5: Private Purchase versions of pattern 6353/1904 knife

TYPE 6: Three Blade clasp knives

TYPE 7: Military style horsemen's knives

TYPE 8: Horsemen's knives with marline spike

TYPE 9: Large three blade clasp knives with marline spike

corkscrew, pair of scissors, lancet, gun-pick, pair of compasses, two steel screws and nuts for repairing traces, hoof picker, gimlet, inch scale marked on outside of knife; it has a D loop for attaching it to the belt, or it can be carried in a leather pouch. Price 75/- "

Based on this evidence and given that the dates for the Crimean War are October 1853 to February 1856, the 'Randolph Knife' can be dated as 'early to **mid-1850s**'; see example of a Randolph Knife following.



This knife conforms with the description above. The main blade is stamped "RANDOLPH KNIFE" on the face and "V[crown]R W. THORNHILL & Co. LONDON" on the mark side tang; the pile side tang has the Thornbush trademark stamp. The turnscrew is similarly stamped on both sides. The small blade and the button hook

are both stamped "W. THORNHILL & Co". The body of the knife is 5 5/8 inches (14.3cm) in length, and it has stag scales.



Flook notes on page 176 regarding one of the knives pictured that "This knife is also marked with the rarely seen Thornhill trademark of the Thornbush along with: "V[crown]R W. THORNHILL & Co LONDON" - see adjacent photo

I also have in my collection a near identical knife, including having "RANDOLPH KNIFE" stamped on the large blade face. The minor differences are the tang stamps having a slightly different makers name, being: "V[crown]R THORNHILL LONDON" on the mark side tang, and the pile side tang being unstamped (i.e. no trademark). The other three blades are simply stamped "THORNHILL". Also, the slide-out tools are different, being a lance with tortoise shell covers, a large and small tweezers, and a long pick.

Apart from the different blade stamps, these minor differences can be explained by the statement at the bottom of the catalogue:

"WALTER THORNHILL having a factory in London and employing several particularly clever and ingenious workmen, is enabled to undertake the manufacture of any particular or out-of-the way pattern knife that may be required".

This suggests that variations to a particular pattern, such as the type of slide-out tools etc., could be accommodated at the time of ordering.

2.2 The English tin opener

There are also some physical characteristics that may suggest whether a particular knife would be 'fit for purpose'; that is, whether it would address the needs of military personnel during wartime - such as the inclusion of a tin opener. The supply of tinned food to soldiers 'in the field' (i.e. "field rations") was first noted during the American Civil War (1861 – 1865) and became common practice during the Second Boer War - instigating the incorporation of a tin opener into the design of military 'issue' clasp knives. Based on information contained in a monograph titled "History of the Can Opener"² available on the internet, canned food had been commercially available from at least the late 1840s and

TYPE 10:
Sportsmen's
knives with
marline spike

TYPE 11: Small
clasp knives with
marline spike

TYPE 12:
Horsemen's
multiblade utility
knives

TYPE 13:
Sportsmen's
multiblade utility
knives – with
button hook &
cartridge extractor

TYPE 14: Six-blade
utility knives –
with button hook
or file/turnscrew

TYPE 15: Take-
apart knife

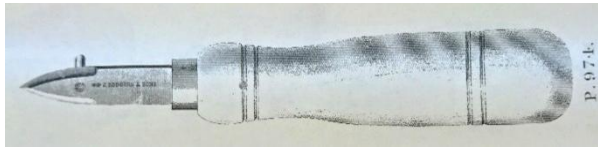
TYPE 16: Six-blade
utility Knives –
post 1st World War

APPENDIX 5: JOHN
NOWILL & SONS
"MILITARY CUTLERY"
March 1916

ENDNOTES

dedicated can openers from the mid-1850s, although not a common household item until the 1920s.

What the monograph indicates is that tin openers from the 1850s until the 1920s were primarily a free-standing 'knife' having a sole purpose of opening tin cans. The exception to this is that by the early 1880s a tin opening 'blade' (consisting of three or four different styles) was included in some multiblade sportsmen's knives that were manufactured by various Cutlery companies in Sheffield, and it is surmised that such knives were aimed at the military 'private purchase' market.



The adjacent illustration is copied from the Joseph Rodgers cutlery catalogue dated c. 1912³ (page 46). The two pages from that catalogue

displaying tin openers are included in this Collector Note as [Appendix 1](#). It is noted that many of the tin openers illustrated in the "History of the Can Opener" monograph and dated from the mid to late 19th Century are also shown in this Joseph Rodgers catalogue. I also have in my collection a cutlery trade catalogue by John Wragg & Sons which displays some of the same tin openers at the Rodgers catalogue. The Wragg catalogue is undated but is assumed to be from 1880s – 1890s.



This example, in a UK collection, is stamped "T. Turner & Co Sheffield" and probably dates from circa 1880s.



The adjacent illustration is copied from an undated cutlery trade catalogue of "Lockwood Brothers Limited Sheffield" (page 141) and

probably dates c.1912.

This Lockwood Brothers catalogue contains 49 pages of clasp knives, with an average of 8 knives per page which suggests an approximate total of 400 different styles of knives – only one of which incorporates a tin opener blade. This suggests that there was a very limited demand for clasp knives that included a tin opener at that time, and that such items that were manufactured were intended for private purchase military service.



It is commonly assumed the "Lord Mayor's Own" knife was the first example of the inclusion of a tin opener in a military issue clasp knife. It is the best known of the four knives displayed in the Thomas

Turner & Co. 1902 catalogue (see page [12 here](#)) wherein it is described as "*Blade, tin opener and leather borer. As supplied to the City Imperial Volunteers*". The Registered Design number stamped on the pile side tang of the blade is "Rd. No. 351515" which indicates the date of registration of the design as early 1900. By some definitions, the "Lord Mayor's Own" knife was a 'private purchase' knife as it was not the result of a military contract but rather it was paid for by donations to the City of London.

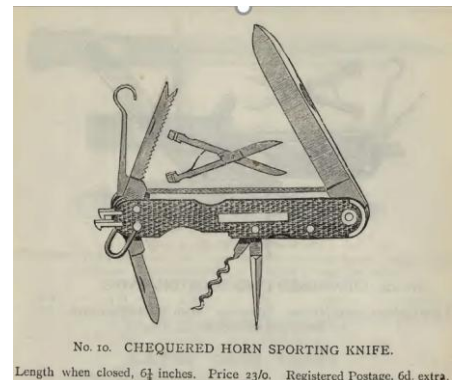
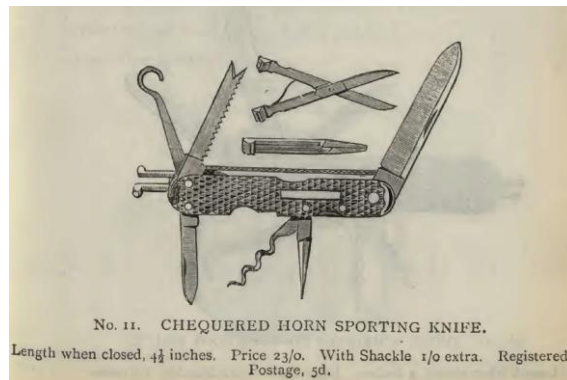
3 THE PRE-BOER WAR ERA

It is difficult to ascertain when tin openers were first included in non-military issue clasp knives; certainly there were no examples of clasp knives that included a tin opener in the 'Army & Navy Cooperative Society Limited' 1883 catalogue, for example. It appears

however that the inclusion of tin openers into ‘private purchase’ knives started much earlier than the “early 1900s” as was the case with military issue knives. It is apparent that knives considered suitable for ‘private purchase’ were described in the cutlery trade catalogues in the mid to late 1800s as “Sportsman’s” or “Sporting” knives, and it was specifically the inclusion of the tin opener that ensured their popularity as a knife suitable for war service. In some of the trade catalogues such knives were therefore referred to as “Campaigning knives” and “Service Knives” to differentiate them from standard sporting knives. This is particularly evident in the trade catalogues that were published after the Boer War. A detailed examination of such knives is provided in the companion Collector Note “19th Century British Sportsmen’s Knives” see www.CASK.info

Following the popularity of the “Randolph knife” described above, sportsmen’s knives (including horsemen’s pattern knives) were manufactured in increasingly larger sizes, a closed length of 6 to 6 ½ inches being popular, and were also heavier in construction, although such a trend appears not have been as popular with military personnel.

The Army & Navy Cooperative Society Limited’ (A&NCSL) 1883 catalogue mentioned above included a range of sportsmen’s knives of various sizes; two knives of almost identical style are shown on page 959, one having a closed length of 4 ½ inches (11.5cm) and the other of 6 ¼ inches (15.9cm). These knives were also displayed in the A&NCSL 1904 and 1907 catalogues – see illustrations following.



The knife in the adjacent photo has the same blade configuration as the above knives (and was a popular sportsman’s pattern in the mid – late 1800s) but has a closed length of 5 ½ inches (14.0cm). The distinguishing feature however is the fitted toggle and ring suitable for attachment to a

lanyard which suggests that the knife is also suitable for military use. The knife has chequered horn scales. and has “PLUM WORCESTER” stamped on the tang of the blade, the button hook, and the hook disgorger. Given its similarities to the two knives in the 1883 catalogue, I date it as ‘mid-1880s’. This knife appears to typify a trend in the manufacture of sportsmen’s knives in the 1880s that would appeal to both sportsmen and military personnel which continued through to the end of WW1 in late 1918. This trend included a reduction in overall length, 4 ½ inches (11.4cm) became common, and anything over 5 inches (12.7cm) was rare.



The adjacent knife has similar characteristics to the knife above; that is, a sportsman's knife but in this case with features that were also attractive to horsemen.

This is a high-quality knife with sterling silver scales hallmarked to **1888**. All of the blades, apart

from the main blade, are marked "BARRETT & SONS on the mark side tangs and "63 & 64 PICCADILLY" on the pile side tang; the main blade is stamped "I. ELLIS & SONS SHEFFIELD". It is possible that the main blade is a replacement however there is no evidence on any work on the pivot pin. The liners are milled nickel silver. There is a fitted toggle and ring attached to the shackle, suitable for attachment to a lanyard which suggests that the knife is suitable for military use.

The distinguishing feature of this knife is the inclusion of the lever style 'English' tin opener that became a common element in both military issue and non-issue knives through to the end of WW1. In fact, the style and characteristics of this sportsman's/horseman's knife: being nickel silver or polished steel scales, a closed length of approximately 4 ¾ inches (12.1cm), a large lock back spearpoint blade and smaller pen blade, cartridge extractor, hook for cleaning horses' hooves, tin opener, button hook, corkscrew and reamer, and trace bolts for repairing harnesses, were replicated by many Sheffield manufacturers and sold by a range of primarily London based retailers and military outfitters, although similar knives with tang stamps referencing other cities are known.

I am aware of an identical knife that has an engraved inscription on one scale that includes the date **1891**. This is further confirmation that the tin opener was included in non-military clasp knives by at least the late 1880s – early 1890s. For references purposes, I refer to this style of knife as the "all metal multi-blade sportsmen's knife", and there are common characteristics that are recognised, being:

- most examples include tools for use by horsemen (i.e. hoof cleaner and trace repair bolts),
- the inclusion of the cartridge extractor in place of the hook disgorger tool.
- The inclusion of a spearpoint main blade rather than a sheepfoot blade that was the norm in other Boer War era clasp knives. It is surmised that a sheepfoot blade was associated with a workingman's knife (i.e. a jack knife⁴) whereas a sportsmen's knife was more closely associated with the gentry and therefore the main blade was a spearpoint – maybe?

4 BOER WAR PRIVATE PURCHASE KNIVES

As mentioned in the CONTEXT & BACKGROUND section of this Collector Note, in reality any reasonably sturdy clasp knife that was commercially available could be privately purchased by or for a soldier who was destined for military service in the war in South Africa (i.e. the Second Boer War). My contention is that when considering a purchase, the buyer would give consideration to whether the knife was 'fit-for-purpose'; that is, would it be useful for daily life in the 'field of war'. At this time, tinned food was not a household item and consequently neither was a tin opener, so the inclusion of a tin opener in clasp knives was considered highly desirable both by military authorities and by the troops. Ron Flook in his book "British and Commonwealth Military knives"⁵ quotes from an undated "Thomas Turner article" as follows (in part):

“The suggestion therefore that a strong tin opener should be added to the pocket knives sent to the seat of war was adopted, and when knives were ordered for the Duke of Cambridge’s Own, the Duke described them as absolutely the best and most useful knife he had seen, while Major Mackinnon of the CIV described the tin opener in the pocket knife as ‘invaluable’ and quite as useful as the blade” (page 129).

The following knife manufactured by MAPPIN & WEBB SHEFFIELD lacks the characteristics normally associated with a sportsmen’s knife, such as the hook disgorger or cartridge extractor; it does however include a tin opener which suggests that it is specifically aimed at ‘horsemen’ – that is. mounted troops serving in the Boer War.



The knife has a closed length of 4 ½ inches (11.4cm), has black chequered horn scales, a main sheepfoot blade and a pen blade, tin opener, corkscrew, awl, reamer, hoof cleaning hook, and trace repair bolts, and is normally found with a leather pouch suitable for attaching to a belt. All examples with black chequered horn scales I have seen were manufactured by

Mappin & Webb. It is, in my opinion a typical example of a Boer War era ‘private purchase’ horseman’s knife, although it (and the following knife) would have also been commercially available for ‘private purchase’ during WW1. Identical knives by Tomas Turner are known.



Stylistically, this knife is very similar to the Mappin & Webb knife above, although with a spearpoint main blade, and with a closed length of 4 ¾ inches (11.1cm) it is slightly shorter. The main blade is stamped on the face “[logo] J. NOWILL & SONS [logo] and on the tang “J. NOWILL & SONS SHEFFIELD ENGLAND”, whereas the tang stamps on the pen blade and the

tin opener have been purposefully scratched out.



This knife has many of the same characteristics as the two knives above but without the inclusion of tools that were useful for horsemen. It also has a spearpoint blade instead of the more common sheepfoot blade. These knives were often referred to in trade catalogues as ‘Campaign’ or ‘Campaigning’

knives. It dates from **1901** (based on a reading of the hallmarks on the sterling silver scales) and therefore the pattern is assumed to have been available during the Boer War. It has

milled liners and seven blades: a main spearpoint, a large button hook, a champagne/wine foil cutter, a corkscrew, a gouge/punch, a tin opener, and a secondary pen blade (broken). Except for the corkscrew and gouge/punch, the blades are all tang-stamped with "J. Moore" on the mark side tangs and "211 Oxford Street" on the pile side tangs. 'J. Moore' is described in the London Knife Book (Page 117) as a "Working Cutler", although it is probable that the knife was made for J. Moore by a Sheffield manufacturer.



The adjacent knife has a closed length of 4 3/8 inches (11.1cm), has what appear to be jigged bone scales, brass liners, a sheepfoot blade, a tin opener, a copper shackle, and a corkscrew. The only stamp is "ALLEN GLASGOW" on the mark side tang of the blade. It is an example of a presumed 'private purchase' knife in its simplest form as it has most of the suggested characteristics.

The following two knives manufacture by Joseph Rodgers & Sons are included here because they have a tang stamp on the tin opener that states "Rodgers Cutlers to Her Majesty" which is a reference to Queen Victoria who died on January 22, 1901 (i.e. well prior to the end of the Boer War). These two patterns were also popular during WW1, albeit with the tang stamp "Rodgers Cutlers to His Majesty" which at that time is a reference to King George V whose reign commenced in 1910, four years prior to the start of WW1 in 1914.



This knife by Joseph Rodgers & Sons is an 'all metal multiblade sportsmans' pattern that was popular during the Boer War era - through to the end of WW1 (1914 - 1918), and is identical in style to the other "all metal multiblade sportsmen's knife" detailed on page 5 [here](#). It has nickel silver scales, hoof pick, harness repair bolts, cartridge extractor, button hook, awl and corkscrew. The closed length is 4 3/4 inches (12.1cm).



This knife was advertised in both the Joseph Rodgers' c.1902 and c.1912 trade catalogues as "Military Knife P.1633." The Registered Design number "Rd. 354051" stamped on the nickel silver scales - indicating a date of May 1900 and was specifically for a "Military Wire Cutter knife". It has a closed length of 5 1/8 inches (13.0cm).



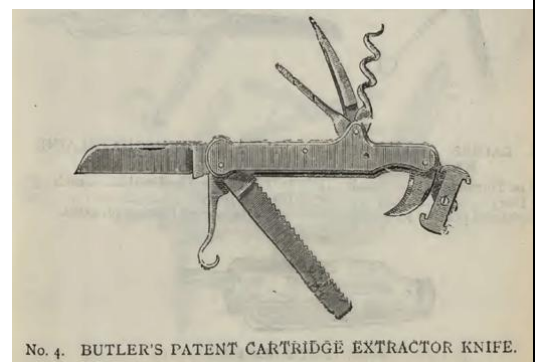
There are other knives that are clearly Boer War 'private purchase' knives based on the inscription on the scales, where very few of the suggested typical characteristics are evident. The following photo, copied from the Australian Military Knives website⁶, is an excellent example and includes the following text: *"The Baker Wire Key marketed by W Jno. Baker, Cutler, of 3 Hunter St Sydney. Jno. Baker were importers and probably manufacturers of a large range of cutlery items. The wire key was a tool designed specifically for the man on the land. This device is more like a multi tool than a clasp knife because it can be used for so many*

tasks. This would have been a Private Purchase item. It is engraved 'Lieut G. H. Allan NSW LANCERS 28-10-99'. The engraving most likely occurred prior to him leaving to fight in the Boer War".



A similar 'sportsman's knife' in an Australian collection, made by 'GEO. BUTLER & Co. SHEFFIELD' is inscribed on the scale **"LIEUT. COLONEL SERJEANT - 5th Rifle Brigade**. Serjeant is known to have served in both the First and Second Boer Wars.

These smaller all-metal multiblade knives based on the "Champagne pattern" frame were a popular sportsman's knife in the late 19th century and early 20th century and were manufactured by most of Sheffield's cutlery companies. Their popularity was based on the great variety of blades and tools that could be supplied, which included a tin opener. One such example is the following:



The maker of the knife shown left is "GEORGE BUTLER & Co. SHEFFIELD" and has the inscription "D.M. FROM H.F. 1902" engraved on the scale. The adjoining illustration is copied from the "Army & Navy Cooperative Society Limited' 1883 catalogue and is identical

to the adjacent knife except that instead of a tin opener it has a cartridge extractor. Both knives have a sheepfoot main blade that was common during the Boer War era and earlier.



This 'all metal multiblade sportsmen's knife' was offered for sale by the UK based auction house Wallis & Wallis in October 2013.

Their description states: "A Victorian officers' silver mounted clasp knife, by Joseph Rodgers, Cutler to Her Majesty, the silver side panels Hallmarked JR and A & N Sheffield 1900 and engraved on

one side **H M Pryce-Jones Coldstream Guards** with blades, corkscrew, button hook, spare screw studs, stonejack, etc; with details of the owner's service in South Africa".

This similar example is copied from Flook's "British & Commonwealth Military Knives"⁷ –

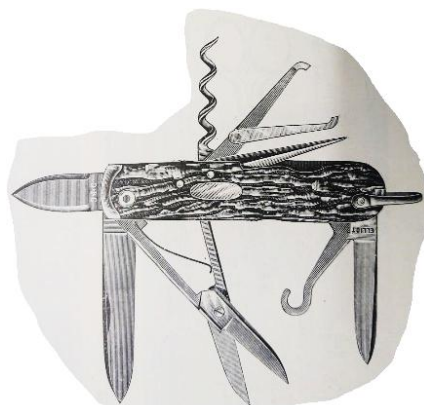


Plate 311 page 135. Flook

describes the knife as: "The personal knife of Captain **E. S. P. Wolferstan, 38th Regiment** (the Staffordshire

Regiment). This type of knife, typically known as a horseman's knife, is marked on the can opener, cartridge extractor and button hook **ARMY & NAVY C.S.L.** (C.S.L. stands for Co-operative Society Ltd). The knife has white metal scales and is filled with main blade, button hook, corkscrew, can opener, cartridge extractor, leather punch, and hook for removing stones from Horses' hooves. These knives typically have two screw bolts fitted to the hilt, for repairing the reins; they are, however, missing in this example". Flook also notes that Wolferstan served with the "38th" from 1881 and the last entry on the Army list is in 1902, and that "during his line service the 38th were based on Malta, Egypt and Gibraltar".

The following two knives are 'small multiblade sportsmen's knives' with identical characteristics, and most importantly they are fitted with the standard 'English' tin opener. The justification for including them in this Boer War section of the Collector Note is that they have a style of cartridge extractor the design of which was registered prior to 1883 which was the last year in which the old 'diamond' style stamp was used for design registration. This suggests that such knives could have been in commercial production in the mid-1880s. The following illustration is copied from the "Joseph Elliot & Sons" undated trade catalogue but assumed to date from the 1900's. If this is correct it suggests that this style of knife was still in production well after the end of the Boer War in 1901.



The following knife stamped "HARRODS BROMPTON Rd. S. W." but which appears to have been made by George Ibberson & Co. is identical to the knife in the adjacent illustration.



This is a high-quality knife that has a closed length of 3 ½ inches (8.9cm), stag scales, milled brass liners, a main blade and pen blade, scissors, button hook, tin-opener, reamer, corkscrew, cartridge extractor, and slide-out tweezers and pricker. The main blade mark side tang is stamped "HARRODS

BROMPTON Rd. S. W." and the pile side tang is stamped with the George Ibberson & Co. violin logo (which was acquired by Butler in c.1882) and SHEFFIELD. All the other blades are stamped "HARRODS LTD."



This is also a high-quality knife with a closed length of 3 ½ inches (8.9cm), ivory scales, milled brass liners, a main blade and pen blade, scissors, button hook, tin-opener, reamer, screwdriver, cartridge extractor, the slide-out tweezers and pricker are missing. The main blade, pen

blade and the button hook are stamped "DOBIE GLASGOW" on the mark side tang. The main blade is also stamped "KLOSSKUT" on the pile side tang. The similarity in construction detail suggests that it may also have been manufactured in Sheffield by George Butler & Co.



I was recently (May 2021) reminded about the role of the knife pattern in the adjacent photo as a popular private purchase item, following a re-reading of Frederick J Stevens' "FIGHTING KNIVES – An Illustrated Guide to Fighting Knives and Military Survival Weapons of the World" (pages 10 & 11), Published by Arms and

Armour Press in 1980. Stevens describes the knife as follows:

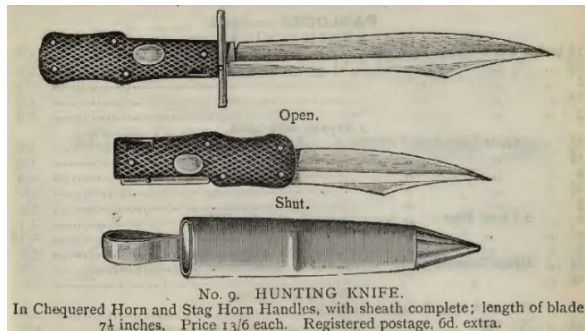
"An English folding Bowie knife popular with among hunters, sportsmen and soldiers, c. 1850. This features the popular characteristics of a moveable cross-guard as well as a folding blade, secured in assembly by means of a press-stud and locking spring device. When closed, the blade folds into the hilt and extends about three inches beyond the pommel, but it is retained securely in a leather sheath with reinforced steel tip. When open, the weapon displays all the usual features of a good knife. The grip is made of slabs of checkered wood, secured to the tang housing by three steel rivets. Blade length 6 ½ in; overall length 10 5/8 in."

This "folding bowie" pattern was manufactured by various Sheffield firms in a range of shapes and sizes however by far the predominant version is as described above by Stevens, and an example stamped "A & N C.S.L." is held in my collection.



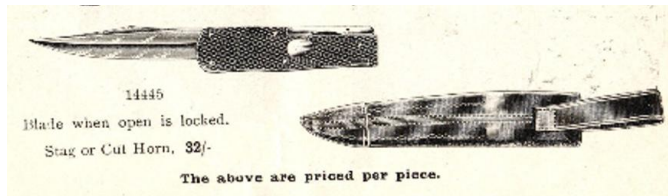
The book *“The Heritage of English Knives”* by David Hayden-Wright (published in 2008 by Schiffer Publishing Ltd.) includes two pages of examples which are described as “Campaign Folders” (pages 220 and 221) with the makers being: “A & N, C.S.L.” (i.e.

Army & Navy Cooperative Stores Limited), “G. Butler and Co.”, “McQueen” (Scotland), “Joseph Rodgers & Sons”, “Briggs, Bennett and Newton – Sheffield”, “Chris. Johnson”, “J. Lawson – Glasgow”, and “S.W. Silver & Co. – London”.



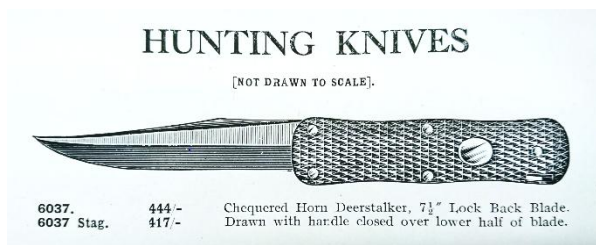
The adjacent illustration is copied from the “Army and Navy C. S. L.” catalogue dated **1883**.

The illustration below (left) is copied from the “Army and Navy C. S. L.” catalogue dated 1904 and an identical illustration is included in the **1907** catalogue, see [Appendix 2](#).



The above illustration is copied from the “JOHN NOWILL & SONS “MILITARY CUTLERY” catalogue dated March **1916** – see the following section 9 (page 29) for details, and [Appendix 5](#).

Based on the above, it is evident that this pattern was available for military private purchase from the early 1880s through to the end of WW1 in November 1918. Interestingly, the Thomas Turner **1925** catalogue includes the following example.



Geoffrey Tweedale in his book *“The Sheffield Knife Book”* (published in 1996 by “The Hallamshire Press”) shows on page 91 details from a Geo. Butler catalogue dated “**1936**” which includes an example of the English folding bowie very similar to the

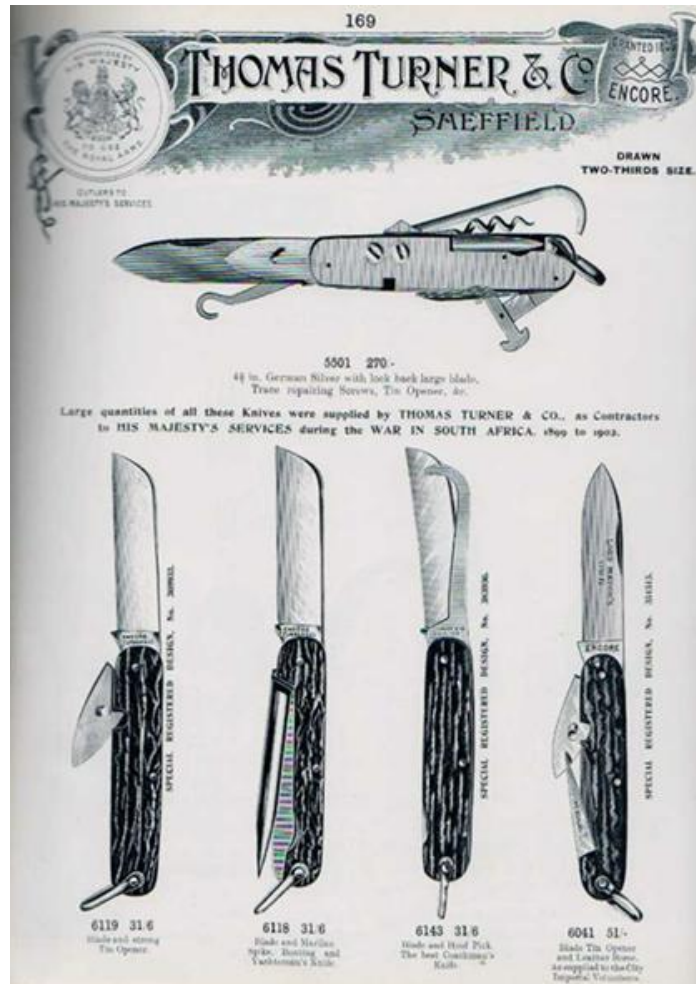
above knives.

5 EARLY 20TH CENTURY

For me, it is useful to look at the period following the end of the Second Boer War and the start of the First World War (the “Great War”), to understand the directions that the cutlery manufacturers in Sheffield were taking in terms of clasp knife styles that were

assumed to be in demand, and also to recognise the styles of clasp knives that were in production in the years immediately prior to the outbreak of war in 1914.

One way of doing this is to examine Sheffield cutlery trade catalogues that were published during that period and which in some cases are available online. Probably the best known of these is the Thomas Turner & Co. 1902 trade catalogue⁸ and specifically page 169 (see copy following) which features four clasp knives under the description “**Large quantities of all these knives were supplied by Thomas Turner & Co., as contractors to HIS MAJESTY’S SERVICES during the war in SOUTH AFRICA, 1899 to 1902**”.



The Boer War ceased in May 1902 and it is assumed that the catalogue was published later in 1902. It is possible that this page was included in the catalogue to exploit the popularity of the knives in wartime. It is not known if these four clasp knives were still in the T. Turner inventory at the start of WW1 and thus available for private purchase. Certainly pattern 6041 (the “Lord Mayor’s Own” knife) was the basis for Turners “1914 DURALUMIN WAR KNIFE” see pages 22 [here](#) and page 23 following. Although the catalogue has an extensive range of clasp knives (including six pages of sportsmen’s knives) only three knives included a tin opener.

Note that the ‘all-metal multiblade knife’ at the top of the catalogue page (T. Turner **pattern 5501**) was never a military contract knife. It was however a popular “private purchase” knife marketed to officers during the Boer War and also WW1. Identical knives were made by many Sheffield manufacturers – see for example Pattern 1979 in the Joseph Rodgers & Sons c.1912 catalogue page 22 – see [appendix 3](#).

Another catalogue that is of particular interest is the “Army & Navy Cooperative Stores Limited” catalogue dated 1907⁹. This is a huge catalogue of well over a thousand pages; a copy of the 8 pages of the “Pocket Cutlery Section” – being pages 986 to 993 is included in the Collector Note as [Appendix 2](#). The objective of the Society was “to supply its Members with the best articles of domestic consumption and general use, at the lowest remunerative rates”. The ‘Pocket Cutlery Section’ of the catalogue focusses on the display of (mainly) clasp knives suitable for former and serving naval and military officers and their families. It contains an extensive range of sportsmen’s knives variously described as: “sporting knives”, “stag sports knife”, “sports knife”, “Campaigning knives – metal sporting knife”, “The Army & Navy Metal Sporting Knife – for campaigning”, “Sporting knives with tin openers, and Nickel Silver sports knives”; of these, seven knives include a tin opener.

The “Army & Navy Metal Sporting Knife – for campaigning” shown in the catalogue on page 990 appear to be identical to the “all metal multiblade sportsmen’s knife” detailed on the top of page 5 above and [here](#) which was a popular ‘private purchase’ clasp knife during both the Boer War and WW1; the catalogue also shows a “sterling silver scales’ variant, albeit at more than double the price.

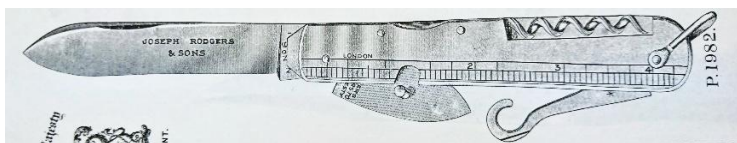


The knife in the adjacent photo appears to be another variant, having ivory scales. The main blade is stamped “A & N.C.S.L.” (that is: Army & Navy Cooperative Stores Limited) on the face but has no tang stamps. However, the pen blade is stamped “J. NOWILL & SONS SHEFFIELD” on the mark side

tang and has the Nowill logo on the pile side tang. Further, the tin opener is stamped “TRUSTWORTHY MAPPIN & WEBB”. It is unclear as to which company manufactured the knife for Army & Navy C.S.L. (who were retailers not makers) but it is assumed to be either Mappin & Webb or Nowill. Also, all the nickel silver pins appear to be original which suggests that the blades may not be replacements.

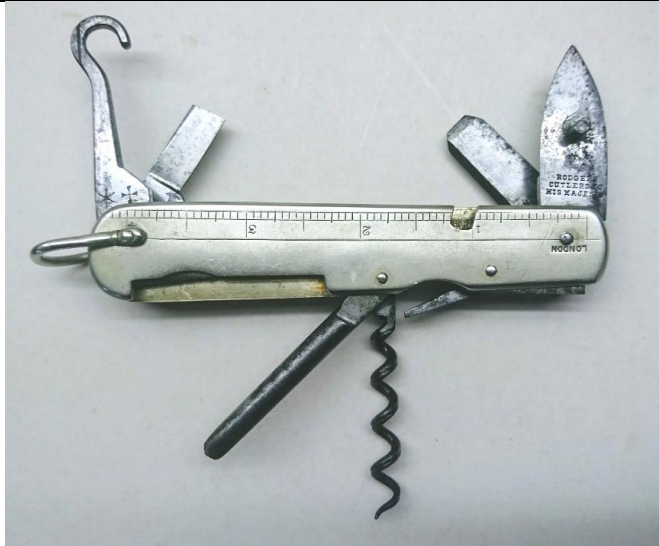
Another cutlery catalogue of interest to this period is the “Joseph Rodgers & Sons Limited” circa 1912 catalogue (reprint)¹⁰. This catalogue displays an extensive range of sportsmen’s knives, however there are three pages of particular interest as they show eight sportsmen’s knives that include a tin opener; copies of these three pages are included in the Collector Note as [Appendix 3](#). Page 22 of the catalogue is of particular note as it displays knives with three different styles of tin opener, being: pattern 1976, pattern 1977 and pattern 1980 – this latter pattern being the Joseph Rodgers version of the “all metal multiblade sportsmen’s knife” and identical to the ones shown in both the Thomas Turner catalogue and the Army & Navy C.S.L. catalogue. This knife, together with the two knives on page 23 and the three knives on page 34 that have tin openers, all use the ‘English’ style tin opener which is the most common of all styles available at the time and which became the standard for military issue knives in World War 1.

Another “sportsmen’s knife” illustrated on page 23 of this Joseph Rodgers c.1912 catalogue is pattern P. 1982 – see following:



This is an interesting knife which qualifies for inclusion as a potential ‘private purchase’ knife

due to the inclusion of the standard ‘English’ style tin opener. It is also illustrated on page 990 of the Army & Navy C.S.L. c.1907 (see [Appendix 3](#) of this Collector Note) under the heading “Nickel Silver Sports Knives” where it is described as follows: “No. 3972. Nickel silver scales, containing large blade with lock back, small blade, button hook, tin opener, screwdriver, leather gouge, measures on scales, London on one side metre the reverse. Length when closed 4 ½ in. [11.4cm] ... each 16/0”.



The adjacent photo shows the example in my collection – but which is in desperate need of repair as it is missing the main blade and the pen blade is broken. It is however the only one I have seen in 30+ years of collecting so it fits my collecting philosophy that *‘a broken example is better than none at all’*. The maker is “JOSEPH RODGERS & SONS SHEFFIELD”. The tin opener is stamped “RODGERS CUTLERS TO HIS MAJESTY”.



An excellent example is also shown on page 38 of ‘The London Knife Book’¹¹ attributed to “CLEMENTS”, whom Flook describes as “... a prolific retailer and one who obviously had a wide range of items for sale”. It is probable that this knife was made in Sheffield for Clements by Joseph Rodgers & Sons.

Another way of identifying clasp knives that may have been suitable for ‘private purchase’ is to understand the requirements that were specified for military issue knives in the period prior to the start of World War 1, and specifically the knife now generally referred to by collectors as ‘pattern 6353/1905’. This knife was ultimately the replacement for the ‘Boer War Jack Knife’ as the military issue knife from 1905, and which remained in service (with various minor modifications) with the British military until 1938 - 39. The other WW1 clasp knife that was produced in large numbers was the so-called “Gift Knife” that appears to have been based on the Boer War clasp knife manufactured by Thomas Turner and others, shown in the page from the **1902** Thomas Turner catalogue on page 11 above and [here](#), being Turner’s pattern 6119. There is some debate amongst collectors as to whether the gift knife is in fact the Pattern 8173/1914 military issue knife, although there is also some consensus that the ‘gift knife’ was the military issue knife for Australian servicemen in WW1. A more detailed analysis of military clasp knives is available in the companion Collector Note “**British Military Clasp Knives 1905 – 1939**” available at www.CASK.info .

The following illustration of a pattern 6353/1905 knife is copied from page 51 of the 1925 Thomas Turner & Co. cutlery catalogue¹² and is described as a “Service Knife”.



The accompanying text describes the knife as “4 ¾” Cheqhorn, As supplied to His Majesty’s Army”

Research undertaken by the late Joe Sweeney (a noted researcher of British military knives) and posted on the now defunct ‘BritishBlades’ website provided a detailed background to the evolution of this pattern 6353/1905 including: “*The pattern of knife on*

issue at the beginning of the war dated back to 1905 with pattern 6353/1905, 2 August 1905. This pattern replaced two patterns then on inventory, 116a/1902 “knives, clasp with marline spike, buffalo handle” and 4563a/1902 “knives, clasp with marline spike, black horn handle”. These knives were eventually produced in large numbers by most Sheffield manufacturers under military contract to fulfill wartime demands.



Some manufacturers also produced copies of their military contract knives for the ‘private purchase’ market. This knife by T. Turner & Co. is identical to

their military contract knife (i.e. Pattern 9401/1917, 26 April 1917, “Knives, Clasp with Tin Opener and Marline Spike with Nickle Scales”). This pattern was produced on contract for the Canadian Government from at least **1914**, so was probably available for ‘private purchase’ from the start of WW1.

At the same time manufacturers produced their own versions of the pattern 6353/1905 knife, generally similar to the official specification, but of a higher quality construction and primarily with stag scales that perhaps made them attractive to a ‘private purchase’ clientele. The following two knives are good examples:



This knife is stamped “T. TURNER & CO. CUTLERS TO HIS MAJESTY” on the mark side tang and has “Rd. No. 551515” stamped on the pile side tang which dates it to **1910**. It has a closed length of 4 $\frac{3}{4}$ inches (12.1cm) and stag

scales. It is not certain that the copper bail is original. Also, this is one of very few such knives where the tin opener is located at the opposite end to the main blade – which was the norm for this style of knife.



This knife has “WHEATLEY BROTHERS SHEFFIELD” stamped on the mark side tang and “WHEAT [logo] SHEAF KNIFE” stamped on the blade face. It has a closed length of 4 $\frac{3}{4}$ inches

(12.1cm) and stag scales.

6 WORLD WAR 1 PRIVATE PURCHASE KNIVES

At the time of the First World War military officers were still required to supply their own kit – which included a clasp knife, and consequently Sheffield manufacturers produced a range of knives to meet the demand, and large quantities were produced to service the needs of both infantry and horsemen, and later in the war also for officers in the Royal Flying Corps. As with the Boer War, the ‘fit-for-purpose’ criteria would have been important in the selection of a suitable ‘private purchase’ knife and therefore the inclusion of a tin opener in an otherwise standard sportsman’s knife became the defining indicator of a ‘private purchase’ knife. I have a copy of a “Military Cutlery” catalogue by JOHN NOWILL & SONS dated 1916 which advertises 16 clasp knives for sale, of which 14 include a tin opener – see [Appendix 5](#) following.

There are some other general trends such as the gradual removal of the button hook and the change to the stubby turncrew to include a cap lifter, which became increasingly prominent in the years following the end of the 1st World War.

Also, apart from the popularity of the 'all metal multiblade sportsmen's knife', there was an obvious trend away from knives that were multi-purpose - to smaller knives that were dedicated horsemen's knives, and knives that were singularly focussed on serving the needs of infantrymen – such as the Thomas Turner "1914 DURALUMIN WAR KNIFE" [here](#).

6.1 Known examples of private purchase knives

An obvious starting point in a survey of WW1 'private purchase' military clasp knives is to look at knives that have a known provenance - as a result of catalogue descriptions, inscriptions on the scales, and/or of their inclusion in museum collections such as the Imperial War Museum, for example.



This 'all-metal multiblade sportsman's knife' is in the collection of the Imperial War Museum and is described as "CLASP KNIFE – MILITARY OFFICER'S". The inscription reads: "**MAJOR M. F. HALL. 4TH W. R. (HOWITZER) BGDE R.F.A.**" The

label that accompanies the photo states "*Clasp Knife carried during the First World War by Major M F Hall, while serving with the 4th West Riding (Howitzer) Brigade, Royal Field Artillery. Although the army issued simple clasp knives, many soldiers chose to carry privately purchased examples such as this one. The military issue knife had a single blade, a tin opener and a marlinspike. By contrast this knife, which is of the type generally known as a 'horseman's knife' featuring a harness punch, two bolts for emergency harness repair and a hoof pick. Additionally, it can boast an elaborate pipe-bowl reamer [actually a cartridge extractor ed.], a corkscrew and a button hook. A screwdriver blade projects from the bolster at one end of the knife. The knife was made by the major Sheffield knifemakers Joseph Rodgers and Sons Ltd*". The online reference to this knife is: <https://www.iwm.org.uk/collections/item/object/30001256>



This 'all-metal multiblade sportsman's knife' in my collection is identical to the above and is also manufactured by Joseph Rodgers & Sons. It is included in this WW1 section

as it is stamped "Rodgers Cutlery to His Majesty" on two of the blades. The name of the original owner "**W. O. GIBSON**" is stamped on the scale. The knife has a closed length of 4 ½ inches (11.4cm)



This 'all-metal multiblade sportsman's knife' is significant in that it is an "RFC attributed knife". The photo is taken from a post on the "Military Knives and Daggers of the World website"¹³ by Roy Shadbolt - a US based expert on Wilkinson knives. The maker of the knife is not stated in the post. The engraving states "**J.W. GREGORY 49082 R.F.C.**" with RFC being a

reference to the Royal Flying Corps – the forerunner of the RAAF.

The following is another knife in the collection of the Imperial War Museum, described as "BRITISH CLASP KNIFE, OFFICER'S PRIVATE PURCHASE." The label describes it in the following terms: "This British clasp knife was a commercial product of Joseph Rodgers & Sons of Sheffield. It is of the multi-bladed type commonly known as a 'horseman's knife'. The knife is associated with the First World War service of Captain P D Mundy of the 11th Battalion, King's Royal Rifle Corps. The blade bears the following commemorative inscription (engraved): 'CAPT.P.D.MUNDY 11th K.R.R.C.CARNOY SEPT 1916', linking the item to Captain Mundy's service on the Somme in 1916". The online reference is:

<https://www.iwm.org.uk/collections/item/object/30000392>



Note that the pen blade is broken. This is an example of multiblade pattern knife that emerged at the time of WW1, that has been pared down by the removal of the 'sportsman's' components such as the cartridge extractor, and thus had a singular focus on military uses.

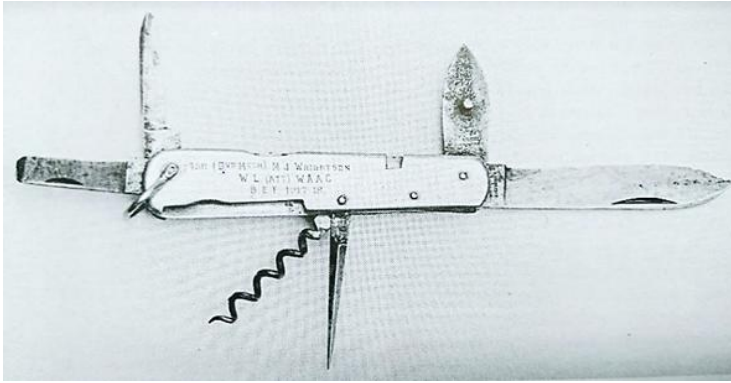


The adjacent knife in my collection is identical to the above and is also manufactured by Joseph Rodgers & Sons. With a closed length of 4 ¼ inches (12.1cm) it is slightly larger than the standard 'all metal multiblade sportsmen's knife'. Of interest is that the tin opener is not the standard 'English' tin opener style that was commonly used on clasp knives throughout WW1 but is shown in one of the knives on page 22 of the Joseph Rodgers c.1912 catalogue included in [Appendix 3](#) of this Collector Note (pattern P.1977). The other blades are a pen blade (broken) a large button hook, a corkscrew, a leather borer, and hoof pick.



This knife is referred to as pattern P.1631 in the c.1902 and the c.1912 Joseph Rodgers catalogues and described as a 'Military Knife'. The main blade face is stamped "JOSEPH RODGERS & SONS" and the tang is stamped "No. 6 NORFOLK STREET SHEFFIELD". The tin opener is stamped with the "G [crown]R" royal cipher above "RODGERS CUTLERS TO HIS MAJESTY" which is a reference to George V who became King in 1910. The following illustration of the above knife is copied from page 34 of the Joseph Rodgers c.1912 catalogue included in [Appendix 3](#) of this Collector Note.





Flook has an excellent example of an inscribed all-metal private purchase knife on page 137 (Plate 316) in “British and Commonwealth Military Knives” which he describes as “A rather nice presentation knife commemorating service with the British

Expeditionary Force (BEF) between 1917 and 1918. The knife is marked on both main blade and can opener ROUTLEDGE, BIRMINGHAM. The knife also has punch, corkscrew, small pen blade and file blade. The scales are of white metal, one of which is engraved **450 (DVR MECH) M.J. WRIGHTON WL (ATT) W.A.A.C. B.E.F. 1917 – 1918**. Given the reference to W.A.A.C. in the engraving, it is evident that M.J. WRIGHTON was a female volunteer serving as a driver with the BEF on the Western Front. With a closed length of 4 inches (10.4cm) this knife is an example of the trend to smaller knives that were more dedicated to needs of infantry personnel. It is assumed that ROUTLEDGE was a retailer based in Birmingham.

The following five knives all have very similar design characteristics to the ROUTLEDGE knife shown immediately above, specifically a six-blade style that became commercially popular after WW1 - through to the 1960s, and commonly referred to as a “six-blade utility knife”.



This example from my collection has almost identical characteristics to the ROUTLEDGE knife above. All four blades are stamped “C. BARRETT & Co. BURLINGTON ARCADE W. 1.” on the mark side tang, and the main blade has SHEFFIELD MADE stamped on the pile side tang. It has a closed

length of 4 inches (10.1cm) and nickel silver scales and liner.



This knife has the same design characteristics as the Barrett knife above, but with a closed length of 3 ½ inches (8.9cm) it is slightly smaller. It is a high-quality knife with stag scales and milled brass liners. All blades are stamped “G IBBERSON & Co SHEFFIELD ENG” and the main blade also has the violin logo and

“SHEFFIELD MADE” on the pile side tang.

The following three knives are very similar to the above knives except that they contain a button hook in lieu of the turnscrew/file.



engraved "PVTE. E GREGORY. 1/3RD W.R. FIELD AMB."

This knife has the main blade mark side tang stamped "TAYLOR SHEFFIELD" and the other three blades all have [eye logo] WITNESS SHEFFIELD on the mark side tang. It has a closed length of 4 inches (10.4cm) and nickel silver scales and liner.

The reverse side scale is



This is a high-quality knife with ivory scales and brass liners and a closed length of 4 inches (10.4cm). The main blade, pen blade and tin opener are all stamped SINGLETON & PRIESTMAN SHEFFIELD, and the button hook is stamped "OIL THE JOINTS'.



blade and the button hook have "OIL THE JOINTS" stamped on their mark side tangs.

This knife is identical to the TAYLOR knife above in appearance but is of a more lightweight construction, for example the metal scales appear to be half the thickness of the TAYLOR Knife. The only stamping is on the mark side tang of the main blade: "MADE IN SHEFFIELD", and the pen



Of these five knives illustrated above, two have a nickel silver shackle; the other knives appear to have originally been fitted with a shackle however it appears probable that the shackles were deliberately removed – perhaps to make them more comfortably contained in a 'pocket'. The adjacent knife is a little more difficult to categorise than the preceding five knives as at 4 3/8 inches (11.1cm) it is larger, and the style of the tin opener is not one that is shown in any of the other knives in this section of the Collector Note. It is the inclusion of the stubby turnscrew/file that suggests it dates from the WW1 era. All four blades have the mark side tangs stamped "W. MORTON & SONS SHEFFIELD" and the pile side tangs are stamped with the Morton scales logo. The style of tin opener is common to all similar Morton knives that I have noted, including a very similar one that I date to post-WW1 as the stubby turnscrew/file has been redesigned to incorporate a cap lifter.

blade and the button hook have "OIL THE JOINTS" stamped on their mark side tangs.

The following two knives are also difficult to categorize; they follow the same six-blade 'utility knife' style described above (including the stubby turnscrew/file), but they have three backsprings so are also small 'horsemen's' multiblade knives due to the inclusion of the fold-out hoof pick. Neither knife has the standard 'English' style tin opener, but each has one of the styles shown on knives illustrated in the Joseph Rodgers c.1912 catalogue, see [Appendix 3](#) following.



This knife has the main blade mark side tang stamped "TAYLOR SHEFFIELD" and the other three blades all have [eye logo] WITNESS SHEFFIELD on the mark side tang. It has a closed length of 4 inches (10.1cm) and nickel silver scales and liner. It also includes a hoof pick that sits within the frame of the knife when in the closed

position, rather than sitting proud of the frame as with the traditional 'all metal multiblade sportsman's knife'.



The tangs of the main blade and pen blade of this knife are stamped "JOHN WATTS SHEFFIELD ESTB. 1765". The nickel silver scale is also stamped with the faux hallmark trademark of B4*ANY. With a closed length of 3 1/2 inches (8.9cm) it is smaller than the Taylor knife above, however it does include a hoof pick - that sits within the frame of the

knife when in the closed position.



This knife was advertised in both the Joseph Rodgers' c.1902 and c.1912 trade catalogues as "Military Knife P.1633." The Registered Design number "Rd. 354051" stamped on the nickel silver scales - indicating a date of May 1900 and was specifically for a "Military Wire Cutter knife". It has a closed length of 5 1/8

inches. The knife in this photo is the 'second variant' which is distinguishable from the earlier Boer War model due to the different shackle arrangement, the lack of the nail nick on the can opener, and the inside of the nickel silver slabs being flat and polished smooth. This variant is stamped "G[crown]R RODGERS CUTLERS TO HIS MAJESTY" on the tin opener.



The mark side tang is stamped "No 6 NORFOLK STREET SHEFFIELD ENGLAND" which is normally associated with a 'Joseph Rodgers & Sons' blade stamp, but not on this blade. The mark side tang of the tin opener is stamped "RODGERS CUTLERS TO HER MAJESTY". The pile side tangs on both blades

have the *+ logo. The scales are the same nickel-silver as used on the Rodgers' Military knife "P. 1633" which was the Victorian era precursor of the OSS/SOE escape knife. A distinguishing feature of the Victorian (i.e. "Her Majesty") version is that the inside of the nickel silver slab handles are slightly concave and rough (as it was when it came out of the mould) rather than polished flat as is the assumed WW1 version. This knife is unusual in that no other examples of this pattern are known. The scale is engraved as follows: "**Cpl F Higginbottom 201228 2/4 York & Lancs, Hallamshire**". Even though the knife has a "Her Majesty" tang stamp, based on the service number stamped on the scale, Higginbottom was a soldier in the First World War.



This exceptional example, in a UK collection, also has its original military lanyard. This is the Thomas Turner & Co. 'war knife' which on the reverse side scale is stamped "1914 DURALUMIN WAR KNIFE" (see example [here](#)). The blade tang has "THOMAS TURNER & Co. SHEFFIELD ENGLAND" together with the company logo and "ENCORE" stamped at right-angle. This pattern is assumed to have directly evolved from

Turner's Boer War 'Lord Mayor's Knife'. The inscription on the scale reads: "**026492. DRIVER J EDWARDS. A.S.C. 1916**". An example of this pattern is shown on page 136 (Plate314) of Flook's "British & Commonwealth Military Knives"¹⁴

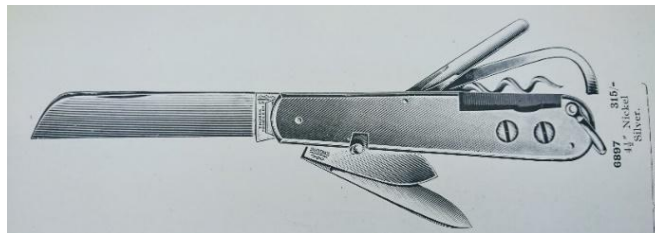
6.2 Clasp knives having the characteristics necessary for 'private purchase'.

The common characteristics of the following group of four knives is that they are all metal and have a closed length of 4 ½ - 5 inches (11.4 – 12.7cm). Significantly, they all include a marline spike, and none have a button hook or stubby turnscrew that were features of the 'utility knives described above. The first two knives can be classified as horsemen's knives due to the inclusion of the fold-out hoof pick.



This knife has many of the characteristics of the more common 'all metal sportsmen's knives', and also has a sheepfoot main blade that was a characteristic of Boer War knives. The distinguishing features of this pattern are the fold-out hoof pick and the heavy spike. The knife has a closed

length of 4 ½ inches (11.4cm) and has the maker's name "[flag logo] CHRIS. JOHNSON WESTERN WORKS SHEFFIELD" stamped on the main blade tang and on the tin opener tang. The scales are nickel silver, and it has one brass liner and one heavy steel liner. It includes a hoof pick that sits within the frame of the knife when in the closed position, rather than sitting proud of the frame



This appears to have been a popular pattern as it is also illustrated in the Thomas Turner Co. 1925 catalogue where it is referred to as a "Campaigning Knife". This post-WW1 version –

see illustration opposite shows that the marline spike has been replaced by a pen blade. This is consistent with an observation made later in this Collector Note that the marline spike was a useful tool in wartime but not popular during peacetime. I am aware of an identical knife made by "Ellis & Son PRIMUS" in a UK collection.



This is a high-quality knife with a closed length of 4 ½ inches (11.4cm). It reflects a trend to the production of knives that are less cumbersome and more focussed on 'fit for purpose'. It has nickel silver scales and liner; the main blade is stamped on the face "[logo] J. NOWILL & SONS [logo] and on the tang "J.

NOWILL & SONS SHEFFIELD ENGLAND". It also includes a hoof pick that sits within the frame of the knife when in the closed position, rather than sitting proud of the frame. The name of the original owner "J. DE HAILES" is stamped on the scale.

The following two knives show a marked reduction in the usual characteristics of a sportsman's knife, to one that is more focussed on the needs of infantrymen in the field.



This knife has a closed length of 4 ¾ inches (12.1cm), nickel silver scales and a steel liner. The main blade tang is stamped "SUTHERLAND & RHODEN SHEFFIELD', and the pen blade similarly stamped.



This knife has a closed length of 4 ½ inches (11.4cm). The tang of the main blade and is stamped "JOHN WATTS SHEFFIELD ENGLAND" and the nickel silver scale is stamped with the faux hallmark trademark of B4*ANY. The same scale is also stamped with a registered design number being: "Rd. No. 642132" which

indicates a date of 1914. This knife has the same blade configuration as the standard military issue knife of WW1 being the pattern 6353/1905 knife that is illustrated on page 14 [here](#) but is slightly smaller having a closed length of 4 ½ inches (11.4cm).

The following group of five knives differ significantly from the multi-blade knives featured above in that they have 3 blades – all on the top side and focussed on the needs of infantrymen in the field. This pattern of clasp knife appears to have evolved from the Thomas Turner knife from the Boer War - commonly referred to as the "Lord Mayor's knife", as mentioned on page 3 [here](#) although a similar pattern was also manufactured by other Sheffield cutlery companies. All knives in the group have a closed length of approximately 4 – 4 1/8 inches (10.2 – 10.5cm) .



This knife in my collection is identical to the knife shown previously on page 21 and shows the stamping on the pile side scale: "1914 DURALUMIN WAR KNIFE" which the knife shown on page 21 also has. The blade tang has "THOMAS TURNER & Co. SHEFFIELD ENGLAND" together with the company logo and "ENCORE"

stamped at right-angle.



This knife is identical to the "1914 DURALUMIN WAR KNIFE" immediately above but shown from the mark side. The main blade face is stamped "[logo] MAPPIN & WEBB SHEFFIELD" and the pile side tang is stamped "MAPPIN & WEBB."

There is no stamping or inscription on the pile side scale.

The following four knives have the same blade characteristics as the Thomas Turner "War Knife" detailed above except that the leather borer tool which was inherited from Thomas Turner's Boer War "Lord Mayor's Knife" has been replaced by a marline spike. This suggests recognition that soldiers 'in the field' in WW1 were less in need of a leather borer, and that a spike for rope work would be more useful. This trend that marline spikes were primarily a feature of knives for the military and navy continued after WW1 and remained so well after the end of WW2. The 1925 Thomas Turner & Co. cutlery catalogue shows two "Service Knives" (i.e. AP301 and 6353/1905) with marline spikes and also two boy scouts knives and one girl guides (see catalogue page 51) however none of the eighteen

Sportsmen's Knives shown on pages 60 – 61 of the catalogue is equipped with a marline spike. The (leather) borer tool however remained as an essential component of the ubiquitous six-blade utility knife, probably until that market was taken over by the Swiss Army Knife.



The mark side tang of the main blade is stamped "CHAS. CLEMENTS" and the pile side tang is stamped "SHEFFIELD MADE". According to Flook¹⁵ Clements was a London retailer with several outlets at the time of WW1. Flook describes Clements as "a prolific retailer and one who obviously had a wide range of items for sale". The knife was made for Clements by a Sheffield

manufacturer.



This John Watts knife in a UK collection shows the reverse side to see the cut down scale necessary to accommodate the marline spike that is common all knives in this group. The tang of the main blade is stamped "JOHN WATTS SHEFFIELD ENGLAND" and the nickel silver scale on the obverse side is stamped with the Watts faux hallmark trademark of B4*ANY. The knife has a closed length of 4 ¼ inches. This knife is in a private UK collection.



This John Watts knife is identical with the one above, but at 3 ¾ inches (9.5cm) closed is ½ inch shorter. The tang of the main blade is stamped "JOHN WATTS SHEFFIELD ENGLAND" and the nickel silver scale on the obverse side is stamped with the Watts faux hallmark trademark of B4*ANY.



This John Watts knife is similar to the two directly above, but in reverse. It also has a different style of tin opener and is of all-steel construction - apart from the metal alloy shackle (probably brass). The tang of the main blade is stamped "JOHN WATTS SHEFFIELD ENGLAND" and the scale on the obverse side is stamped with the Watts faux hallmark trademark of B4*ANY.



This is a simpler version of the other knives in this group in that it lacks a marline spike. It has the same characteristics as the standard WW1 military issue pattern 8173/1914, but with a closed length of 3 5/8 inches (9.2cm) it is 1/2 inch shorter. The tang of the main blade is stamped "JOHN WATTS SHEFFIELD ENGLAND" and the nickel silver scale on the obverse side is stamped with the Watts faux hallmark trademark of B4*ANY.



This knife is of higher quality than the five knives above in that it has stag scales, brass liners (with the middle one milled) and nickel silver bolsters, pins and shackle. The inclusion of a corkscrew in lieu of the marlin spike suggests that it is more suited for use by 'an officer and gentleman'. The mark side tang of the blade is stamped "HARRISON BROTHERS & HOWSON", and the pile side tang is stamped "SHEFFIELD ENGLAND".

The following three knives are included here in the basis of them having the standard 'English' style tin opener, but apart from that their separate characteristics are unusual.



This is a two-piece 'take-apart' knife with a closed length of 3 3/4 inches (9.5cm) and has nickel silver scales and liners. The main blade and the tin opener are both stamped on the mark side tang "SINGLETON & PRIESTMAN SHEFFIELD". It also has a toggle on one end (in lieu of a shackle) that would presumably enable it to be secured to a lanyard or similar.

This is a two-piece 'take-apart' knife with a closed length of 3 3/4 inches (9.5cm) and has nickel silver scales and liners. The main blade and the tin opener are both stamped on the mark side tang "SINGLETON & PRIESTMAN SHEFFIELD". It also has a toggle on one end (in lieu of a shackle) that would presumably enable it to be secured to



This knife is made by John Watts and referred to by them as the "SERVICE" knife – see illustration following from a Watts catalogue, courtesy Bernard Levine. Ron Flook shows a similar knife on page 159 of 'The London Knife Book' which he describes as: "This wire cutter knife is of a style known to date back to the 1st World War when officers were required to carry a pair of wire cutters". The knife has a closed length of 4 1/2 inches (11.5cm) and "JOHN WATTS SHEFFIELD ENGLAND" stamped on the mark side tang of the main blade, and possibly dates from c.1916.

This knife is made by John Watts and referred to by them as the "SERVICE" knife – see illustration following from a Watts catalogue, courtesy Bernard Levine. Ron Flook shows a similar knife on page 159 of 'The London Knife Book' which he describes as: "This wire cutter knife is of a style known to date back to



No. 294. Barbed Wire Cutter. "Platinoid" Scales.

The adjacent illustration is copied from an unsourced Watts catalogue and states "No.294. Barbed Wire Cutter" and "Platinoid Scales". The subject knife differs in that all the steel parts except the shackle are nickel plated.



This is a small all-metal horsemen's knife, built on the 'Champagne' pattern, frame similar to the ones shown on page 8 [above](#) and the same description applies here: "*a popular sportsman's knife in the late 19th century and early 20th century and were manufactured by most of Sheffield's cutlery companies. Their popularity was based on the great variety of blades and tools that could be*

supplied, which included a tin opener". The knife has a closed length of 4 inches (10.1cm) and makers name "SUTHERLAND & RHODEN SHEFFIELD" is stamped on the main blade. It appears to have nickel silver scales and the reverse scale has a registered design number stamp "R^d.649121" which indicates a date of **1915**. It contains a sheepfoot main blade, a standard 'English' style tin opener, a leather borer and a tool for cleaning horses' hoofs that is stamped "HORSE HOOK".

7 JOHN NOWILL & SONS "MILITARY CUTLERY" catalogue dated March 1916.

Recently, (May 2021) UK collector and researcher Mike Convy (aka "Jockknife") made available his copy of the JOHN NOWILL & SONS "MILITARY CUTLERY" catalogue dated March 1916 (see [Appendix 5](#)) which provides an instructive insight and clear evidence as to what constituted a "private purchase" knife at the mid-point of WW1. The catalogue has 16 pages however only the 4 relevant pages are included in Appendix 5. Other pages in the catalogue are razors, scissors, sticking knives, wire cutters, even a carving set.

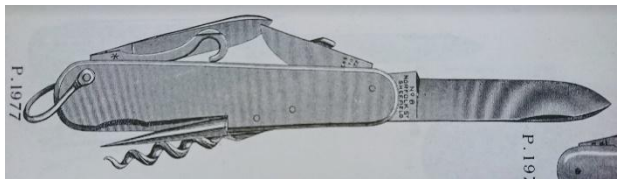
Of the sixteen clasp knives illustrated, all but two incorporate a tin opener. An example noted top-right on page 2 of the catalogue shows a version of the pattern 6353 military issue knife – with the same blade configuration, and also with the options of "*corkscrew instead of spike*" and "*without tin opener*". The closed length of this knife is shown as 3 ¾ inches (9.5cm) whereas the standard specification for all the pattern 6353 series of clasp knives is 4 7/8 inches (12.4cm). Also, shown bottom right on page 2 of the catalogue is a version of the pattern 8173 military issue knife with bone stag scales and with the option of pressed horn scales. The closed length of this knife is shown as 4 inches (10.1cm), whereas the standard specification for all the pattern 817 series of clasp knives is 4 1/8 inches (10.5cm).

8 POST-FIRST WORLD WAR

The purpose of this section is an attempt to understand the knife styles that were popular in the UK in the years following the end of WW1, in order to distinguish them from 'private purchase' knives relevant to the war years. Categorising knives that comply with the range of characteristics ascribed to Boer War and First World War 'private purchase' knives as detailed in the previous sections of this Collector Note is fraught with difficulties. For example, the knife in the following photo is the "TAYLOR SHEFFIELD" knife shown at the



top of page [19 above](#) which has the reverse side scale engraved "PVTE. E GREGORY. 1/3RD W.R. FIELD AMB." and consequently there is no doubt as to its authenticity as a WW1 'private purchase' clasp knife.



The adjacent illustration is taken from page 22 of the Joseph Rodgers **c.1912** catalogue and was the basis for including many of the small six blade utility knife into the WW1

'private purchase knife section.



The adjacent illustration copied from page 60 of the 'Thomas Turner & Co., Sheffield' **1925** trade catalogue shows an almost identical knife. The point being, that just

because an all-metal utility knife has a tin opener and a button hook, doesn't necessarily mean that it is a WW1 'private purchase' knife.

It appears however that there was a marked change in the preferences of the buying public in the years following the end of WW1 towards smaller and more compact knives, with the six-blade utility knife (that was a common WW1 'private purchase' knife) becoming increasingly popular.

It appears to me that there was one feature that became common in the years following the end of WW1, and that is the inclusion of the cap lifter – especially in the six-blade utility knife pattern. Specifically, in such knives, I have noted that the stubby turnscrew/file that was a common feature of WW1 'private purchase' knives, had been redesigned to incorporate a cap lifter. There are no examples of 'private purchase' knives in the preceding pages of this Collector Note that have the redesigned screwdriver/cap, and no examples are evident in any of the pre-WW1 cutlery catalogues that I have access to.

The crown seal style of bottle cap was patented in 1892 and two years later the cap lifter was also patented. The Army and Navy C.S.L. 1907 catalogue features three 'gadget' style knives made by the Sheffield cutlery firm 'John Watts & Co., which include a variation on the Watts's Service" (wire cutter) knife shown on page [28 above](#), that shows the end of the lever arm designed as a cap lifter, however none of the extensive range of 'Sportsmen's knives in the catalogue contains either a separate cap lifter tool or a 'redesigned' stubby turnscrew/file incorporating a cap lifter.



The earliest example I can find is of a separate cap lifter tool in the TAYLOR'S "EYE

WITNESS" c.1919 catalogue, incorporated into "The Veldt Knife".

I have noted knives with cap lifters in the "W. Jno. Baker" 1924 catalogue (from Australia), and also in the c.1930s "Wostenholm I*XL cutlery catalogue – see illustration following.

My assumption is that during the First World War, a cap lifter was not considered an essential item for military personal, or alternatively that free-standing bottle openers were readily available.



The following group of four knives are all "six blade utility knives" having a closed length of 4 – 4 ½ inches (10.2 – 11.5cm), and all include a combination screwdriver/cap lifter blade in addition to a tin opener. On all four knives the underside has a corkscrew and a (leather) borer tool. This pattern, that appears to have emerged during the first decade of the 20th century, was popular as a 'private purchase knife during WW1, became popular in the public domain in the years following the war and remained so at least until the 1970s.



The face of the main blade of this knife is stamped "ROBINSON SHEFFIELD" together with their 'GRINDER' logo. The mark side tang is stamped "HERBERT ROBINSON SHEFFIELD" and the pile side tang is stamped "HAND FORGED". The tangs of the pen blade are similarly stamped. The knife has nickel silver scales and liner.

The reverse scale is engraved with the owner's name "R. L. DOWNING".



This knife appears to have jugged bone scales dyed to resemble stag, and brass liners. Both the main blade and the pen blade are stamped "G. BUTLER & Co. SHEFFIELD".



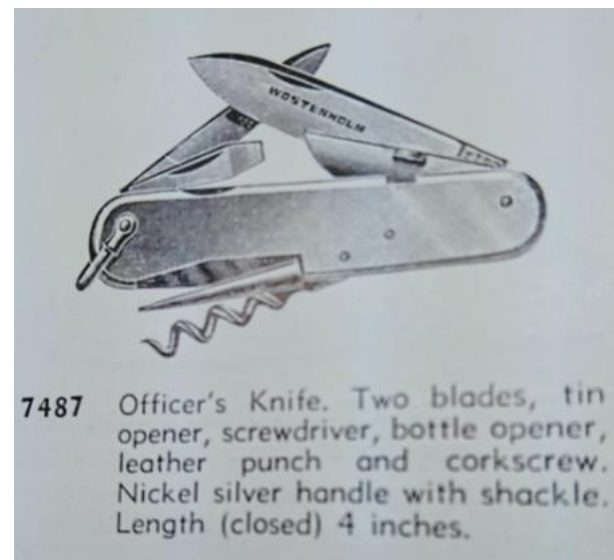
The main blade of this knife is stamped "J. MORTON & SONS SHEFFIELD" on the mark side tang. The pen blade has the Morton 'scales' logo on the mark side tang. The tin opener has "J. MORTON & SONS SHEFFIELD" on the mark side tang. This 'claw' style of tin opener is commonly found on

Morton utility knives.



This knife has stag scales and brass liners and with a closed length of 4 ½ inches (10.8cm) is slightly larger than the previous three knives. The mark side tang of the main blade is stamped "[key logo] G. BUTLER & Co." and the pile side tang is stamped "SHEFFIELD [ART logo] ENGLAND. The pen blade, the

tin opener and the cap lifter tangs are similarly stamped. This is the exact knife referred to on page 10 of Ron Flook's book¹⁶ "Knives and Daggers of the Special Operations Executive" about which Flook states "... Made by George Butler was this style the inspiration for the campaign knife?".



This illustration is copied from "Wostenholm's I*XL catalogue" dated c.1961 shows that their stock number 7487 "Officer's Knife" has characteristics that are identical with the four post-WW1 'six-blade utility knives' shown immediately above. It is also identical to the knife illustrated on page 27 [above](#), copied from the Thomas Turner & Co catalogue dated 1925, except that the button hook has been replaced by the "bottle opener".



This knife also has the characteristics of the post-WW1 six-blade utility knives; however its closed length of 4 ½ inches (11.5cm), chequered horn scales, nickel silver liners, pins and bar shield, and pull-out tweezers and pick suggest it is more appropriately classified as a 'sportsman's knife and could date from the 1930s or later. The main blade mark side tang is stamped "RICHARD MELHUISE Ltd. FETTER LANE

HOLBORN, E. C." The pile side tang stamping is now illegible however it could include "SHEFFIELD MADE ...". An identical knife, except with stag scales, also made by MELHUISE is shown on Plate 117 (page 115) of "The London Knife Book"¹⁷, noting that the address given for the company is slightly different to that shown above.

9 CONCLUSIONS

As stated in the 'BACKGROUND' section of this Collector Note: *"There is no formal definition, that I am aware of, as to what constitutes a 'private purchase' knife used by British military personnel in wartime"*. It was therefore consideration of "context" that became important and assisted in understanding the concept of a clasp knife being 'fit for purpose' during the Boer War and the First World War (WW1), especially as the approximate 20 years that covered this period saw the transition from a wartime heavy reliance on horses to their almost complete replacement by various forms of mechanisation. This transition was reflected in the styles and characteristics of clasp knives that were regarded as suitable for private purchase, that is - that addressed the needs of (mainly) military servicemen (predominantly officers), particularly when in the field.

My principal conclusion is that it is the inclusion of a tin opener that primarily determines whether a particular pattern of clasp knife can be defined as being suitable for private purchase during the Boer War/1st World War er. My justification is simple: there really was no other reason to incorporate a tin opener into a clasp, as tinned food was primarily the domain of military 'field rations' at that time.

There were however other trends that are apparent:

- The large (closed length 4 ½ inches / 11.5cm) all-metal sportsman's knife was probably the most popular 'private purchase' knife in both the Boer War and WW1, however its popularity quickly waned thereafter.
- There was a trend to smaller and more utilitarian multi-blade knives that were specifically designed for the needs of both horsemen and infantrymen, by the removal of 'sportsmen' features such as hook disgorger and cartridge extractor. The ubiquitous small 'six-blade utility knife' appears to be the result of this trend.
- The inclusion of a button hook became less common but were still in evidence in sportsmen's knives through the 1920s.
- The stubby turnscrew/file that was common in Boer War and WW1 clasp knives was redesigned to incorporate a cap lifter (bottle opener) following the conclusion of WW1.
- The inclusion of a marline spike was a common feature of clasp knives in both wars (and WW2), however in some of the smaller patterns in WW1 it appears that its place was taken by the (leather) borer which was considered a multipurpose tool. A newspaper article¹⁸ dated 1900 regarding the Thomas

Turner & Co. 'Lord Mayor's Knife' described the borer in the following terms: "a strong square pincer, which can be used as a leather borer, a machine spiker, or a horse-hook".

- As a general rule, any clasp knife that shows a London address (but not necessarily the word "London") and which includes a tin opener, is assumed to be a 'private purchase' knife dating from the Boer War/1st World War era which would appeal to military servicemen.

This Collector Note attempts to explain the evolution of 'private purchase military clasp knives' by reference to a general chronology of events starting in the mid-19th century and extending through to the decades following the end of the 1st World War in order to provide the context for their development.

In reviewing the Note following the completion of the Final Draft, it became apparent that there was an alternative way of understanding '*British Private Purchase Military Clasp Knives from the Boer War to First World War*' and that was study their typology – that is, to group them according to common characteristics. To this end, [Appendix 4](#) of this First Edition of the "BRITISH PRIVATE PURCHASE MILITARY CLASP KNIVES" Collector Note categorises the 'private purchase' knives in the author's collection according to "TYPE".

10 ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

The UK collector and commentator Martin Cook and UK collectors Paul Stamp greatly assisted me with examples of 'private purchase' clasp knives in their private collections which ensured that this Collector Note is far more comprehensive than was initially possible.

Further, the writing of this Collector Note would have been much more difficult without access to Ron Flook's excellent books "British and Commonwealth Military Knives", and "The London Knife Book" as can be appreciated by the many times both are listed in the [Endnotes](#) following.

11 UPDATES, ELABORATIONS & CORRECTIONS

Much of the value of 'web notes' such as this **Collector Note** lie in their ability to be regularly updated, elaborated and corrected, so that in-reality there is no final version – it is in-fact a '*never-ending story*'. My purpose is to assist in filling the knowledge gap regarding antique Sheffield pocket knives and folding knives that was very apparent to me all through my collecting years - to encourage/assist new collectors, and to generally promote the pleasure associated with such collecting.

To this end, any suggestions/contributions that fellow collectors may have that will improve the content of this **Collector Note** and thus expand the knowledge base will be most welcome, and I am sure will be greatly appreciated by all present and future collectors of **British Private Purchase Military Clasp Knives**.

Author:

Lawrie Wilson

APPENDIX 1: TIN OPENERS SHOWN IN JOSEPH RODGERS CATALOGUE circa 1912. Pages 46 and 48.





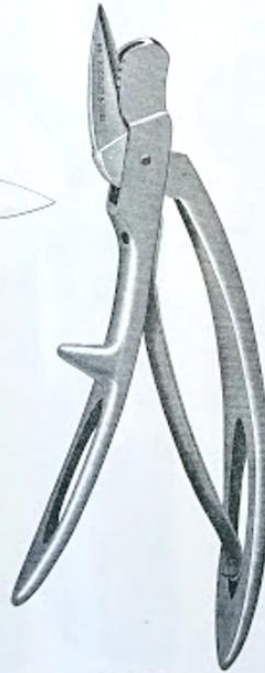
REGISTERED TRADE MARK.
*†
GRANTED 1862.



P. 968.



P. 969.



P. 970.



P. 971.

TIN OPENERS.

986

No. 12, POCKET CUTLERY—Second Floor.

THE "IDEAL" PATENT SELF-OPENING POCKET KNIFE.

Two blades.



To open the knife push lock-spring in the direction indicated by the arrow. The blade will automatically assume a partly open position, from which it can be fully opened with ease.
To close the knife push the blade into the handle until it locks with an audible click. If it goes hard or sticks, a drop of oil will remedy the trouble.
Steel each 1/6 | Ivory each 1/10

ARMYMAN SILVER KNIVES FOR CHAINS.



2 blades, with shackle, length when closed, 2 1/2 in. 1/2
Do., do., do., 2 3/4 in. 1/4
Do., do., do., 3 1/4 in. 1/6
Do., very flat, no shackle, 3 3/4 in. 1/0

CENTENARY OF TRAFALGAR, 1805-1905.

THE "NELSON" POCKET KNIVES.

Suitable for school presentations, fetes, &c. Useful and attractive souvenirs. Sheffield make.



Above illustrations show each side of Nos. 1 and 2.
No. 1. Ivory, 2 blades, length when closed, 3 1/4 in. each 2/2
No. 2. Platnoid (untarnishable metal), 2 blades, length when closed, 3 3/4 in. each 1/8

SCISSOR KNIFE.



Containing 2 blades and scissors, with ring for attaching to chain.
In sterling silver (Hall marked) 6/0
In 9-ct. gold 34/6

PENCIL KNIVES.

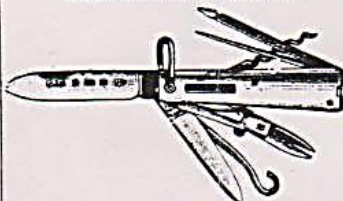


No. 24. each 6/6
Pearl " 6/6
Tortoiseshell " 6/0
Ivory " 10/9
Sterling Silver (Hall marked) " 10/9



Sterling Silver (Hall marked), length when closed, 3 in. each 17/3
Pearl or shell " 9/6
Ivory " 8/3

CHATELAINE KNIFE.



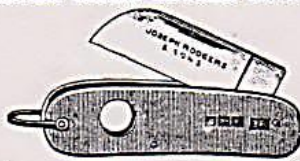
No. 33.
Silver (Hall marked), length when closed, 2 1/4 in. each 23/6
Do., do., in ivory " 17/9
Do., do., in shell " 18/3
Do., do., in pearl " 17/9

FLUTED SILVER KNIFE.



No. 38. Each 9/6

SILVER CIGAR CUTTER KNIFE.



Each 6/0
*Silver in order only. These have no pricker or tweezers.

SILVER TWO-BLADED KNIFE.



No. 2424.
Silver (Hall marked) 2 1/2 in. long each 4/0
Do., with shackle " 4/6

LOBSTER PATTERN PENKNIFE



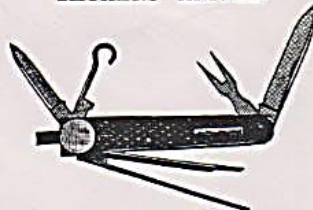
No. 202. 4 blades, very thin, for waistcoat pocket.
Pearl and shell 5/0
Ivory 3/9

PATENT "SESAME" CLIMAX KNIVES.



Small size: length when closed, 2 3/4 in.
Ivory or stag handles each 2/0
Tortoiseshell " 2/6
Pearl " 2/7
Large size: length when closed, 3 1/2 in.
Ivory or stag handles each 2/4

SMOKERS' KNIVES.

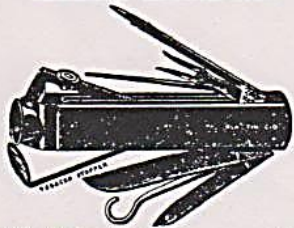


No. 25. With tobacco stopper at end.
Pearl each 8/9
Tortoiseshell " 8/9
Ivory " 7/6
Chequered horn " 7/6
*Sterling silver scales, with shackle 17/0



No. 26. Partridge wood, containing large and small blade, pipe pick and tobacco stopper each 3/10

SMOKERS' KNIVES—contd.



No. 74. Sterling silver scales 12/0
Platinoid scales 7/3



German silver scales 2/0

**SPORTING KNIVES.
Chequered Horn.**



No. 11. Length when closed, 4½ in. each 25/9



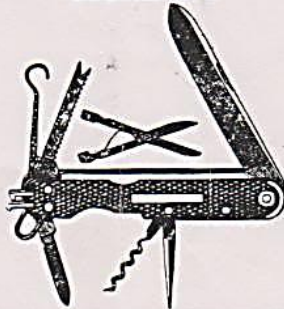
No. 12. Length when closed, 5 in. each 25/0



No. 2207. Length when closed 3¾ in. Con-
taining large and small blades, silver
blade, nail file, scissors, button hook,
corkscrew, cigar pricker, pick and
tweezers.

Stag each 20/0
Ivory " 20/6
Pearl " 21/6
*Sterling Silver Scales " 23/0

**SPORTING KNIVES—contd.
Chequered Horn.**



No. 10. Length when closed, 6¼ in. each 30/0



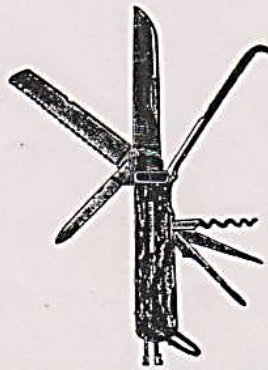
No. 5510. Length when closed, 4 in. Con-
taining large blade, pen blade, button
hook, corkscrew, gimlet, rymu, fleam,
pick and tweezers.

Stag each 5/9
Ivory " 5/9



No. 2255. Length when closed, 4 in. Con-
taining large and small blades, button
hook, turnscrow, rymu, gimlet, cork-
screw, pick and tweezers.

Stag each 14/6
Ivory " 15/6
*Sterling Silver Scales " 22/0



No. 1. Stag horn. Length when closed,
5 in., containing 10 implements 9/3

SPORTING KNIVES—contd.



No. 2251. Length when closed, 3¼ in.
Containing large and small blades,
button hook, corkscrew, rymu, pick and
tweezers.

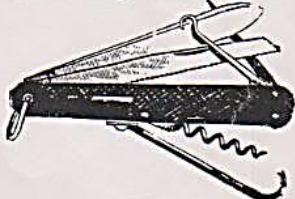
Stag each 10/0
Ivory " 10/6
*Sterling Silver Scales " 20/0



No. 2358. Length when closed, 3 in. Con-
taining spear and pen blade, button
hook, file, cut turnscrow, corkscrew,
rymu, pick, and tweezers.

Stag each 5/6
Ivory " 5/6

**"Emigrant's" Knife, in Stag or
Chequered Horn, with
Lock to large Blade and Saw.**



No. 2. Length when closed, 7 in. each 34/0
Ivory Chequered Sporting Knife.



No. 13. Length when closed, 5 in. ... each 20/0

Ivory Sporting Knife.



No. 5147. Length 4¾ in. Con-
taining large and small blades,
button hook, turnscrow, leather
borer, pick and tweezers, and
shackle.
Stag or Ivory each 8/0

Stag Sports Knife.



No. 5324 1/2.
Length when closed, 4 3/4 in. Contains large blade, long button hook, turn-screw, tin opener, pen blade, leather borer, gimlet, corkscrew, pipe pricker, tweezers, shackle..... each 10/6

Gold Penknife.

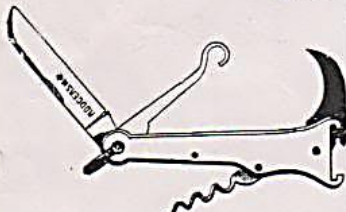


Two blades, 9-ct. solid gold scales and shackle; length when closed, 2 1/4 in.; beautifully finished (limited supply).
each 33/0

Cartridge Extractor Knives.



No. 1841.
German silver Scales. Containing turn-screw, champagne hook, square blade, cartridge extractor (12 and 16 bore), railway key, corkscrew, and shackle.
each 5/3



No. 211.
Nickel silver scales, length 4 in. each 9/3
12 and 16 bore extractor at end.



No. 1810.
German silver scales. Containing large and small blade, button hook, champagne hook, cartridge extractor (12 and 16 bore), gimlet, rymmer, corkscrew, and shackle. Length 4 in. each, 9/6

CARTRIDGE EXTRACTOR KNIVES.



No. 52. Platinoid scales 9/9
12 and 16 bore extractor.

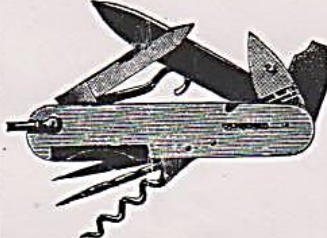


No. 24. Platinoid scales each 4/9
12 and 16 bore extractor.



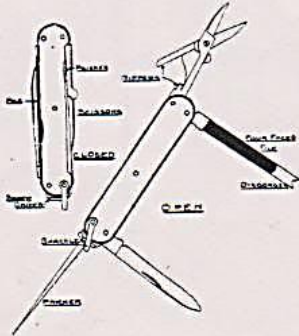
No. 51. Platinoid scales each 6/0
12 and 16 bore extractor.

Sports Knife.



No. 230. Platinoid scales each 8/9

Shaw's Fly Fishing Knife.
(Registered No. 476,082.)



— Fly Fishing Knife —
Each 7/6

Cartridge Extractor Knife.



The graduating Cartridge Extractor is the simplest and most effective yet introduced, as it extracts with equal ease cartridges of any size.

No. 80. Nickel-plated scales each 5/3
No. 80. Silver scales 16/6
Chain and leather tab, extra 2/4 or 3/0.

ANGLERS' KNIVES.



Chequered Horn, with folding steelyard to weigh up to 20 lb.
No. 22a. Length when closed 4 1/4 in., containing large blade, lock back, saw with disgorger, rymmer, button hook, corkscrew, fly tiers, tweezers, baiting needles, and scissors each 30/3



Chequered Horn, with steelyard to weigh up to 12 lb.
No. 22. Length when closed 4 in. each 18/6

Anglers' Knives—contd.

The Handy Fisherman's Knife.



Length, 3 1/2 in.

Containing 6 articles. Large spear blade, pen blade, large scissors, button hook, corkscrew, and gimlet, shackled scales of aluminium (very light). Each 5/6
*Sterling Silver Scaleseach 12/0

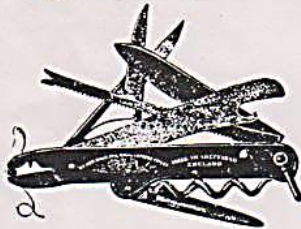
Angler's Knife.



Length, 3 3/4 in.

Containing long spear blade, saw, disgorging, and extra large scissors. Shackled aluminium (very light). Each 5/3

The New Fishing Knife.



Extreme length, 4 3/4 in. Contains large spear blade, saw, disgorging, large pair scissors, leather gouge, corkscrew, shot cutter and nipper, fly vice and shackle, the latter, while preventing the loss of the knife when worked on the rack, has the effect of closing the vice and securing the hook. Scales made of platinoideach 17/6

NORWEGIAN KNIVES.



Open.

These knives are very useful for fishing and hunting, as the blades can be used for skinning.
Size about 2 3/4 in. long when closedeach 1/1
" " 3/4 " " " " " 1/2
" " 3/4 " " " " " 1/3
" " 5 " " " " " 1/10

SPORTING KNIVES—contd.
HUNTING KNIVES.

Chequered Ebony Hunting Knife.



No. 18. Length of blade, 7 in.

Price.....each 10/0



No. 9326. With sheath: length of blade, 4 1/2 in., extreme length 9 in.each 4/3



No. A1. Complete with sheath, as drawing, length 9 1/2 in.each 2/10

Registered Hunting Knife.



No. 15. Improved triplicate blade.

Is so constructed that in case of accident or breakage, the blade can at once be replaced without difficulty or delay, from the reserve of blades fitted to each knife, thus avoiding the inconvenience and disappointment often experienced in the hunting field, more especially in the Colonies, for which it will prove invaluable being both strong and durable.

Price, including leather sheath.....each 26/0

Folding Hunting Knives.



No. 9. Stag horn handles, with sheath complete, length of blade, 7 1/2 in., each 15/6
No. 17. Chequered horn handle, with sheath, complete. Length of similar blade, 9 1/2 in., to No. 9 knife.....each 17/9

These have no prickers or tweezers.

Hunting Knives—contd.

The "Explorer's" Hunting Knife.



No. C. Stag horn handle, with sheath, length of blade, 10 in. 22/3
Do., do., length of blade, 8 1/2 in. 15/0

Clasp Knives with Lock Back.



No. 9241. Clasp knife, stag horn or ivory: length when opened, 9 1/4 in., lock backeach 5/3



No. 40. Coco wood.....each 3/0

Sporting Knife, with Railway Key.



No. 36a. Containing 2 blades, button hook, tin opener, champagne hook, turn screw, railway key, and corkscrew. Platinoid Scaleseach 9/9

CAMPAIGNING KNIVES.
Metal Sporting Knife.



No. 9282. Scales made of German silver. It contains large and small blade, button hook, tin opener, hollow gouge, corkscrew, screwdriver, measure on scale, shackle at end, lock-back to large blade, length when closed, 4 3/4 in.price 20/0

The Army & Navy Metal Sporting Knife.
For Campaigning.



No. 14. The scales of this knife are made of German silver, and are therefore very durable. It contains large and small blade, button hook, tin opener, cartridge extractor (12 and 16 bore), hollow gouge, corkscrew, turnscrew at end, horsepick, and two trace bolts for mending traces, &c. Length when closed, 5 inches.
With lock-back blade each 18/0
*Sterling Silver Scales " 40/0
Cowhide leather cases for above " 2/3

METAL YACHTING KNIVES.



No. 27a. Nickel-plated all over, length when closed, 5 in. each 13/3



No. 27. Nickel-plated all over, length when closed, 5 in. each 7/3

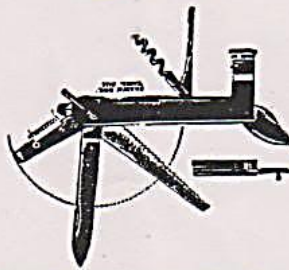
Spring Open Knife. (English Make.)



Can be opened with gloves on. When the shield is pressed the blade springs open. Length when closed, 3½ in.
Stag 2/3 | Ivory 2/6

SPORTING KNIVES—contd.

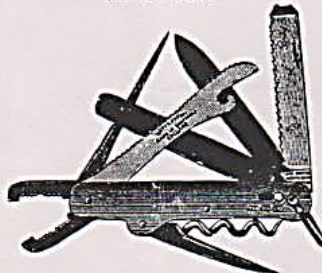
The New Tool Sporting Knife.
(Edwards' Patent.)



Containing the following useful instruments, viz.:—large spear blade, tin opener, screwdriver, carriage extractor (12 bore), saw, gimlet, corkscrew, hammer, nail extractor at end, shackle for attaching to chain or belt, nickel-plated scales. Length when closed, 5½ in. each 10/0

MOTORING KNIVES.

The Motorist's Knife. (Sheffield Make.)
(Watt's Patent.)



Scales made of Platinoid. Contains wrench and pliers, screwdriver, saw, file, large blade, pricker, leather borer and rymer, and a corkscrew, nickel-plated, Shacked. Length when closed, 5 in. each 20/0

The Motorist's Knife. (Sheffield Make.)



This knife is made specially for motorists, and contains a strong spanner for sparking plugs, a pair of pliers, a triangular punch, screwdriver with wire straightener, file, and a large blade. The scales are of steel, heavily plated with nickel, the length is 7 inches, and the whole knife is of the strongest workmanship and highest finish each 35/0

*In Silver to order only. These have no pricker or tweezers.

SPORTING KNIVES, WITH TIN OPENERS.



No. 7130. German Silver Scales each 9/6



No. 7917. German Silver Scales each 9/0

Nickel Silver Sports Knives.



No. 3971. Nickel Silver Scales, containing large blade with lock back, button hook, tin opener, screwdriver at end, and corkscrew, measures on scale, London on one side metre the reverse. Length when closed, 4½ in. each 13/6

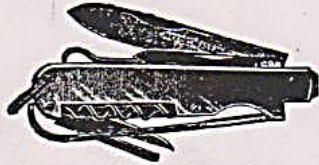


No. 3972. Nickel Silver Scales, containing large blade with lock back, small blade, button hook, tin opener, screwdriver, leather gouge, and corkscrew, measures on scales, London on one side metre the reverse. Length when closed, 4½ in. each 16/0

Nickel Silver Sports Knives—contd.



No. 3973. Nickel Silver scales, containing large and small blade, button hook and cork screw, measure on scales, London on one side, metre the reverse. Length when closed 3 3/4 in..... price 11/0



No. 3974. Nickel Silver Scales, containing large and small blades, button hook, screw driver at end, cork screw, tin opener, and horse pick. Length when closed 5 in..... price 11/6

Silver Champagne Knives.



No. 34. Silver, with cigar cutter in scale; length when closed, 4 in..... each 21/9
No. 35. Do. do., 3 1/2 in. when closed " 14/9

Nickel Silver Champagne Knife.



Length 4 in.; best quality with shackle, each 3/6
Parcel post, 0/3
This knife can be had with either 1 blade and button hook, or with two blades. Without shackle, each 3/0

Nickel Silver Champagne Knife.



No. 39a. Length 4 in..... each 5/0
*No. 39a. Do., Silver scales " 28/0

SCISSOR KNIVES.



No. 200. In Ivory, length when closed, 3 in. 5/0
" Pearl " " 5/9
" Tortoiseshell " " 5/9



No. 2056. German Silver scales, long spear blade, button hook, scissors, turnscrew, champagne hook, gimlet, corkscrew and shackle. Length, 4 in..... each 8/3



No. 8898. Ivory scale, length 3 1/4 in... each 5/9

IVORY RULE KNIFE.



No. 9251. 2 blades..... 3/9

TOILET KNIVES.



No. 30. In Ivory, length when closed, 3 1/4 in..... each 10/6
In Tortoiseshell..... " 11/0
" Pearl..... " 11/0
*Sterling Silver Scales, with Shackle " 18/0



No. 7916. Ivory..... each 4/0
Pearl or Tortoiseshell " 4/3

RING-OPENING KNIFE.



Opens blade by turning ring round without the assistance of finger nails at all. Actual length 2 1/2 in. In nickel..... each 1/9 | Sterling silver, each 5/0

SILVER MIKADO TOILET KNIFE.



No. 110. Length when closed, 3 1/4 in., very thin..... each 7/3



No. 32a. Silver handle. Length when closed, 3 1/4 in..... each 9/9

The New Picnic Knife, Fork, and Spoon. (Patent).



Scales made of aluminium, suitable for campaigning, fishing, cycling, &c., very light. Directions.—To detach the fork from the knife, open the fork and side that slide of the handle downwards, when they will fall apart. Each..... 2/6


Chequered Handle Picnic Knife.




No. 19a. Chequered horn handle picnic knife; length of blade, 3 1/4 in..... each 10/0

*In Silver to order only. These have no pricker or turner.

NEW PATENT CORN EXTIRPATOR.


Thorough, safe, and instantaneous relief to those who suffer from corns.
Each 2/0

CORN KNIVES.


Ivory handle, 1 blade 1/9


Ivory handles, 2 blades 2/2

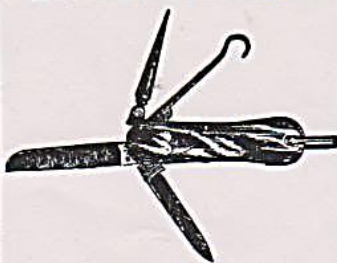
CHATELAIN KNIVES.


No. 31.
Sterling silver (Hall marked), length when closed, 2 in. 18/3



No. 16.
Length when closed, 2 in.
Ivory each 5/0
Shell " 5/3
Pearl " 5/3
Sterling silver (Hall marked) 11/3


No. 28.
Length when closed, 2 1/4 in.
Ivory each 3/0
Tortoiseshell " 3/9
Pearl " 3/9
Sterling silver (Hall marked) 10/9


CHATELAIN KNIVES—contd.


No. 7. Length when closed, 2 1/4 in.
Tortoiseshell or pearl each 3/3
Ivory " 2/8
Sterling silver (Hall marked) 13/3


No. 32.
Sterling silver (Hall marked), length when closed, 2 1/4 in. 15/6


No. 6.
Length when closed, 2 in.
In Pearl or Tortoiseshell each 4/6
Ivory " 4/0
Sterling silver (Hall marked) 10/0

THE NEW RULE KNIFE.
(Sheffield make.)


Contains 2 blades, and folding rule extending to 6 inches. To extend the rule lift up the scale at the end (square). Metal scales, suitable for engineers, draughtsmen, &c.
Each 3/6

Messrs. JOSEPH RODGERS & SONS' CUTLERY.


A large selection of the above firm's Pocket Cutlery on Sale in this Department.

THE ENGINEER'S KNIFE.
(Sheffield make.)



Ivory scales. It contains large blade, 9 in. Chesterman's rule, pair of dividers, strong magnifying glass, standard wire gauge, and a sliding gauge. Length when closed, 3 3/4 in. In leather bag. Each 21/0

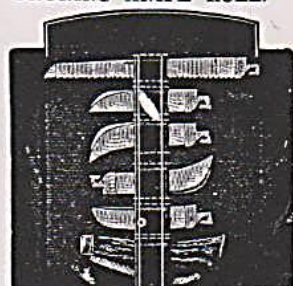
GARDENERS' KNIVES.


Stag handle, 2 blades, length when closed, 4 5/8 in. 2/0
Do. 1 blade, length when closed, 4 1/2 in. 1/6
Do. do. do., 4 in. 1/3

IVORY BUDDING AND PROPAGATING KNIVES.


No. 204 each 1/0 No. 203 each 1/6

PRUNING KNIFE ROLL.



Containing saw, sheepsfoot blade, 3 different sized pruning blades, and 1 budding blade, all to fit into same handle.
Price 11/3

PRUNING KNIVES.



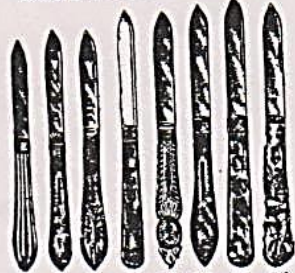
- No. 1. Pruning blade and saw, stout blade 2/9
- " 2. Single narrow blade pruning knife 2/4
- " 3. " " broad " " 2/3
- " 4. Double blade " " 2/6
- " 5. Single " " medium size 2/0
- " 6. " " small " 1/4
- " 7. " " suitable " 1/7
- " 8. Single blade, medium size 1/9

PRUNING AND BUDDING KNIFE.



No. 5391. Stag horn, length when closed 4 1/4 in. each 2/9

SILVER FRUIT KNIVES.



3/6 4/0 4/9 6/0 5/3 6/6 7/0 9/0
Fruit Knives, 1 silver blade. Price each as quoted under illustration of its pattern.
Ivory blade each 1/3

ALUMINIUM FRUIT KNIFE.



The above knife is specially made for fruit. Is unaffected by fruit acids, and will not tarnish. The material which is used in the handles as well as the blades is extremely light. Extreme length 3 1/4 in., weight only 3/4 of an oz., containing one aluminium blade and steel pen blade.
Each 1/8

PATENT ORANGE PEELER AND FRUIT KNIFE.



Illustration shows Peeler inserted under peel of orange.
Hall-marked silver, length when closed 3 3/4 in. each 7/6

DOESKIN CASES FOR SILVER FRUIT KNIVES.

Each 0/5

BOYS' KNIVES.



No. 3. Length when closed 3 1/2 in., with shackle.
In plain ivory 6/0
In stag horn 5/9
In chequered horn 6/0



No. 8. Length when closed, 3 3/8 inches.

| | | | |
|---------------------|-----|--------------------|-----|
| Ivory, 8 implements | 4/9 | Stag, 8 implements | 4/6 |
| " 10 " | 6/0 | " 10 " | 5/9 |
| " 12 " | 7/6 | " 12 " | 7/0 |

With shackle



No. 5101.

Stag horn, ivory, or chequered horn 3/3
Length when closed, 2 3/4 in.

No. 92.

Ivory 3/9
Stag 3/3
Length when closed, 3 1/2 in.

BOYS' KNIVES—contd.



No. 7126. Stag horn or chequered horn, each 3/6



No. 70358. Ivory or stag horn, length when closed, 3 1/2 in. 2/3



No. 2048. Stag Horn 2/6



No. 633. Ivory or stag horn, length when closed, 3 1/4 in. each 2/6

TELESCOPIC SCISSORS.



Sheffield make each 2/9

BOWIE KNIFE.

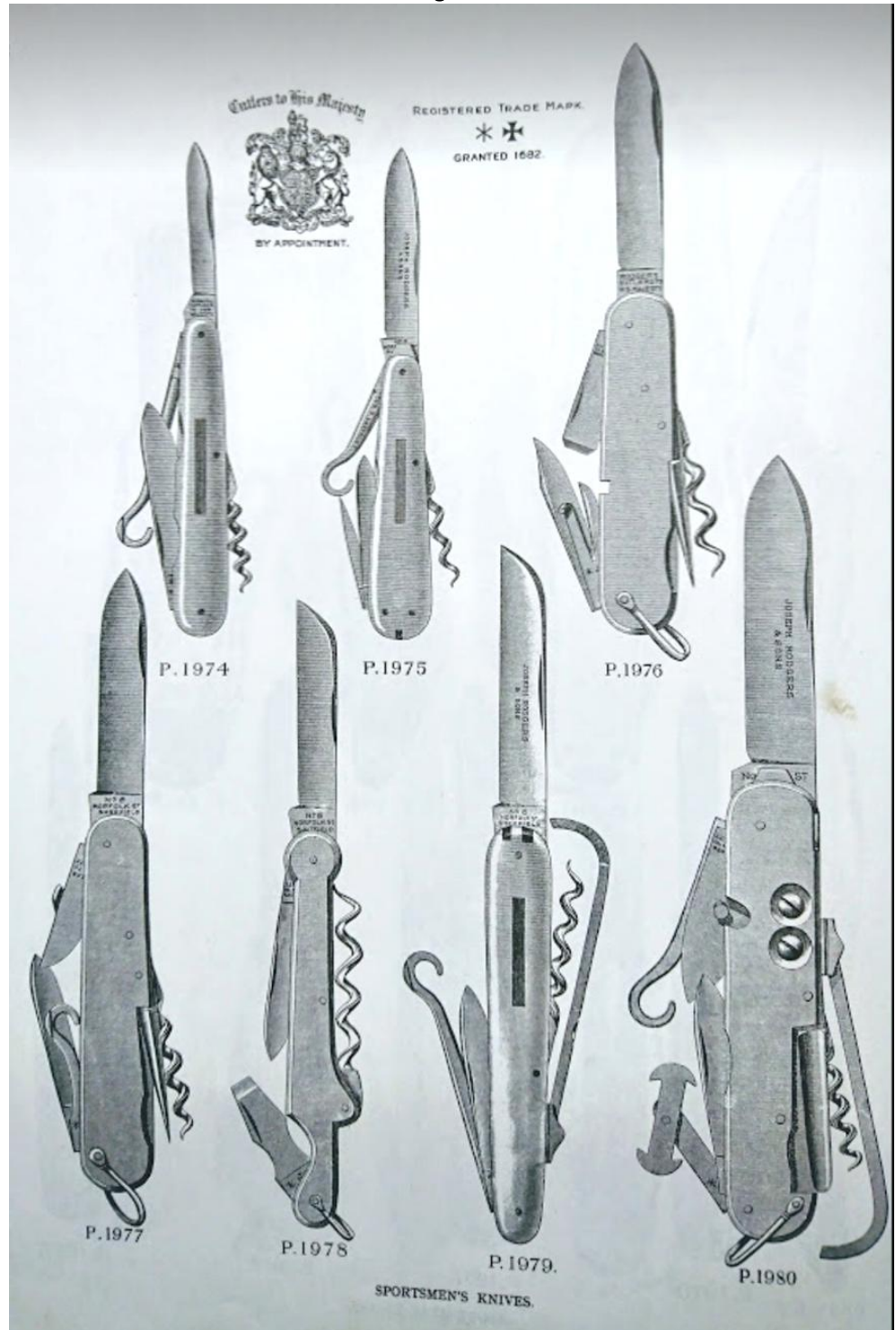


Length 10 inches, horn handle, with sheath each 12/0

APPENDIX 3: JOSEPH RODGERS CATALOGUE circa 1912

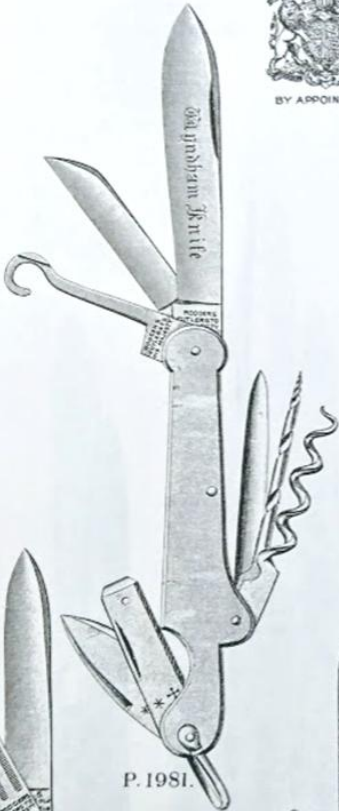
Pages 22, 23 and 34. Note the three different styles of tin opener on this page.

Page 22



Suppliers to His Majesty
BY APPOINTMENT.

REGISTERED TRADE MARK.
* +
GRANTED 1682.



P.1981.



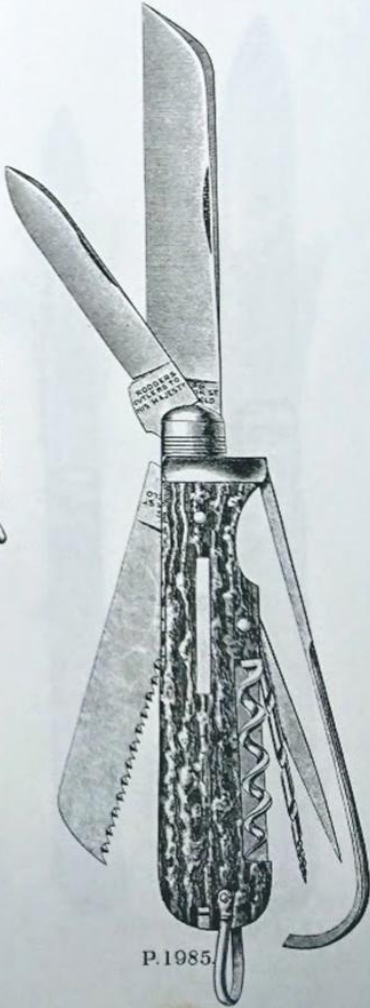
P.1982.



P.1983.



P.1984.

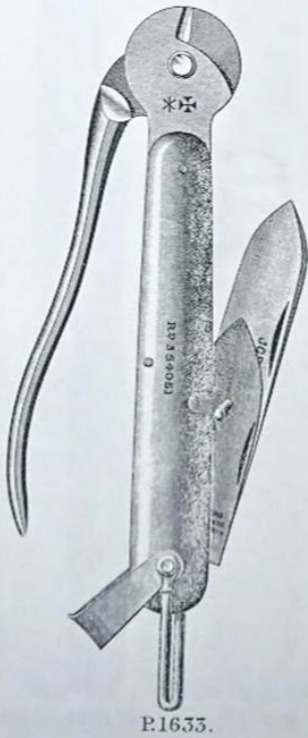


P.1985.

SPORTSMEN'S KNIVES.



REGISTERED TRADE MARK.
* ✚ *
GRANTED 1682.









MILITARY KNIVES.




SINGLE-BLADE POCKET KNIVES.

APPENDIX 4: Author's collection of knives with characteristics relevant to a 'private purchase' item.

Appendix 4 categorises the 'private purchase' knives in the author's collection according to **TYPE**

| Ref. No. | Photo | Details |
|--|--|--|
| <p>TYPE 1: 'All metal multiblade sportsmen's knives' – horseman's pattern</p> <p>The style and characteristics of this sportsman's/horseman's knife are: mainly nickel silver or polished steel scales, a closed length of approximately 4 ½ inches, a large spearpoint blade and smaller pen blade, cartridge extractor, hook for cleaning horses' hoofs, tin opener, button hook, corkscrew and reamer, and trace bolts for repairing harnesses. These knives appear to have been popular from the late 1880s through to the end of end of 1st World War (1918).</p> | | |
| 1 |  | <p><i>Collector Note reference page 5.</i></p> <p>All of the blades, apart from the main blade, are marked "BARRETT & SONS on the mark side tangs and "63 & 64 PICCADILLY" on the pile side tang; the main blade is stamped "I. ELLIS & SONS SHEFFIELD". It is possible that the main blade is a replacement however there is no evidence on any work on the pivot pin. The liners are milled nickel silver. There is a fitted toggle and ring attached to the shackle, suitable for attachment to a lanyard. The sterling silver scales are hallmarked to 1888.</p> |
| 2 |  | <p><i>Collector Note reference page 13.</i></p> <p>The main blade is stamped "A & N.C.S.L." on the face but has no tang stamps. However, the pen blade is stamped "J. NOWILL & SONS SHEFFIELD" on the mark side tang and has the Nowill logo on the pile side tang. Further, the tin opener is stamped "TRUSTWORTHY MAPPIN & WEBB". It is unclear as to which company manufactured the knife for Army & Navy C.S.L. (who were retailers not makers). It is assumed that this knife was manufactured in the early 20th century - prior to the start of the 1st World War in 1914.</p> |

| | | | |
|--|---|--|--|
| | 3 |  | <p><i>Collector Note reference page 7.</i></p> <p>The main blade face is stamped "JOSEPH RODGERS & SONS" and the tang is stamped "No.6 NORFOLK STREET SHEFFIELD". The tin opener and the cartridge extractor are both stamped "RODGERS CUTLERS TO HER MAJESTY" which suggests a date of manufacturer prior to 1901 during the reign of Queen Victoria.</p> |
| | 4 |  | <p>The main blade face is stamped "JOSEPH RODGERS & SONS" and the tang is stamped "No.6 NORFOLK STREET SHEFFIELD". The tin opener and the cartridge extractor are both stamped "RODGERS CUTLERS TO HER MAJESTY" which suggests a date of manufacturer prior to 1901.</p> <p>The pen blade is broken off close to the tang, otherwise the knife is in excellent condition.</p> |
| | 5 |  | <p><i>Collector Note reference page 16.</i></p> <p>The main blade face is stamped "JOSEPH RODGERS & SONS" and the tang is stamped "No.6 NORFOLK STREET SHEFFIELD". The tin opener and the cartridge extractor are both stamped "RODGERS CUTLERS TO HIS MAJESTY" which indicates a date of manufacturer after 1901 following the death of Queen Victoria.</p> <p>The name of the original owner "W. O. GIBSON" is stamped on the obverse scale.</p> |
| | 6 |  | <p>All blades are stamped on the mark side tang</p> <p>"J. C. VICKERY REGENT ST. W."</p> <p>This knife would have been by a Sheffield manufacturer for Vickery who were London based retailer. The London Knife Book (page 189) notes that Vickery was in business at various London addresses, including Regent Street, from 1890 to 1930.</p> |

| | | | |
|--|---|--|---|
| | 7 |  | <p>All blades are stamped on the mark side tang</p> <p>"[key logo] G. BUTLER & Co." and on the pile side tang 'SHEFFIELD [art logo] ENGLAND".</p> <p>The corkscrew is broken off at the tang.</p> |
| | 8 |  | <p>All blades are stamped on the mark side tang "HENNIG & Co." and on the pile side tang "26 COVENTRY STREET W".</p> <p>"The London Knife Book' page 76 and 77 notes that HENNIG & Co. "Operated for only about 15 years from 1890 to circa 1905 at 26 Coventry St. being described as razor makers". This dates the knife to well prior to the 1st World War, and it is highly probably that the knife was made in Sheffield for Hennig.</p> <p>There is no evidence that this knife has ever been used.</p> |
| <p style="text-align: center;">TYPE 2: 'All metal multiblade sportsmen's knives' – sportsman's pattern</p> <p style="text-align: center;">These knives have many of the same characteristics as the knives above but without the inclusion of tools that were useful for horsemen, and were often referred to in cutlery trade catalogues as 'Campaign' or 'Campaigning' knives</p> | | | |
| | 9 |  | <p><i>Collector Note reference page 6.</i></p> <p>Except for the corkscrew and gouge/punch, the blades are all tang-stamped with "J. Moore" on the mark side tangs and "211 Oxford Street" on the pile side tangs. 'J. Moore' is described in the London Knife Book (page 117) as a "Working Cutler", although it is possible that the knife was made for J. Moore by a Sheffield manufacturer. It dates from 1901 based on the hallmarks on its sterling silver scales. The pen blade is broken off at about half its length</p> |

10



Collector Note reference pages 13 & 14.

The tin opener and the cartridge extractor are both stamped "RODGERS CUTLERS TO HIS MAJESTY" which suggests a date of manufacturer after 1901 following the death Queen Victoria. The other remaining blades are stamped "No. 6 NORFOLK STREET SHEFFIELD". The knife has a closed length of 4 ½ inches (11.5cm).

The knife is missing the main blade and the pen blade is broken off at about half its length.

TYPE 3: 'Champagne pattern' multiblade sportsmen's knives

These smaller all-metal multiblade knives based on the "Champagne pattern" frame were a popular sportsman's knife in the late 19th century and early 20th century and were manufactured by most of Sheffield's cutlery companies. Their popularity was based on the great variety of blades and tools that could be supplied, which included a tin opener that was an attraction to military personnel when 'serving in the field'.

11



Collector Note reference page 8.

The maker of this knife was "GEORGE BUTLER & CO. SHEFFIELD" and it has the inscription "D.M. FROM H.F. 1902" engraved on the obverse scale.

12



Collector Note reference page 26.

The knife has a closed length of 4 inches and makers name "SUTHERLAND & RHODEN SHEFFIELD" is stamped on the main blade. It appears to have nickel silver scales and the reverse scale has a registered design number stamp "Rd.649121" which indicates a date of 1915. It contains a sheepfoot main blade, a standard 'English' style tin opener, a leather borer and a tool for cleaning horses' hoofs that is stamped "HORSE HOOK".

TYPE 4: "Military Wire Cutter Knife"

The first three knives were advertised in both the Joseph Rodgers' c.1902 and c.1912 trade catalogues as "Military Knife P.1633 and are variations of the Registered Design number "Rd. 354051" which is stamped on the nickel silver scales indicating a date of May 1900 and was specifically for a "Military Wire Cutter knife". They have closed

length of 5 1/8 inches (12.5cm). They appear to have been used in both the Boer War and the 1st World War.

13



Collector Note reference page 7.

The face of the main blade is stamped "JOSEPH RODERS & SONS" and the mark side tang is stamped "No. 6 NORFOLK STREET SHEFFIELD". The tin opener is stamped "RODGERS CUTLERS TO HER MAJESTY"

14



Collector Note reference page 20.

The face of the main blade is stamped "JOSEPH RODERS & SONS" and the mark side tang is stamped "No. 6 NORFOLK STREET SHEFFIELD". The tin opener is stamped "RODGERS CUTLERS TO HIS MAJESTY"

15



This knife is identical to knife 14 immediately above except that it also includes a button hook. The face of the main blade is stamped "JOSEPH RODERS & SONS" and the mark side tang is stamped "No. 6 NORFOLK STREET SHEFFIELD". The tin opener is stamped "RODGERS CUTLERS TO HIS MAJESTY".

16











Collector Note reference page 25.




The knife has a closed length of 4 1/2 inches and "JOHN WATTS SHEFFIELD ENGLAND" stamped on the mark side tang of the main blade and possibly dates from c.1916. Watts referred to this pattern the "SERVICE" knife, being pattern "No.294. Barbed Wire Cutter".

TYPE 5: Private Purchase versions of pattern 6353/1904 knife

The pattern 6353/1905 knife was a standard issue knife for British troops in the 1st World War. It was first produced in 1905 and was the subject of a range of slight variations through to c.1917. The predominant scale material was 'chequered horn' however pressed fibre and nickel silver were also used. These knives were eventually produced in large numbers by most Sheffield manufacturers under military contract to fulfill wartime demands. Some manufacturers also produced copies of their military contract knives for the 'private purchase market, as follows

| | | |
|--|--|---|
| 17 |  | <p><i>Collector Note reference page 14.</i></p> <p>This knife by T. Turner & Co. is identical to their military contract knife (Pattern 9401/1917, 26 April 1917, "Knives, Clasp with Tin Opener and Marline Spike with Nickle Scales"). It has a closed length of 4 7/8 inches (12.4cm).</p> |
| 18 |  | <p>The only stamping on this knife is "THOMAS WILSON SHEFFIELD" on the mark side tang of the main blade. It has a closed length of 4 7/8 inches (12.4cm).</p> |
| <p>TYPE 6: Three Blade clasp knives</p> <p>Two and three blade clasp knives were a popular Sheffield pattern in the late 19th century and early 20th century, normally with a main blade, pen blade and corkscrew. Many manufacturers replaced the pen blade with a tin opener to appeal to the military 'private purchase' market.</p> | | |
| 19 |  | <p><i>Collector Note reference page 14</i></p> <p>This knife is illustrated on page 34 of the Joseph Rodgers c.1912 catalogue (included as Appendix 3 of this Collector Note) where it is referred to as pattern P.1631 and described as a 'Military Knife'. The main blade face is stamped "JOSEPH RODGERS & SONS" and the tang is stamped "No. 6 NORFOLK STREET SHEFFIELD". The tin opener is stamped with the "G [crown]R" royal cipher above "RODGERS CUTLERS TO HIS MAJESTY" which is a reference to George V who became King in 1910.</p> |
| 20 |  | <p>As with Knife 18 detailed immediately above, This knife is illustrated on page 34 of the Joseph Rodgers c.1912 catalogue (included as Appendix 3 of this Collector Note) where it is referred to as pattern P.1632 and described as a 'Military Knife'. The main blade face is stamped "JOSEPH RODGERS & SONS" and the tang is stamped "No. 6 NORFOLK STREET SHEFFIELD". The tin opener is stamped with the "G [crown]R" royal cipher above "RODGERS CUTLERS TO HIS MAJESTY"</p> |

| | | |
|---|--|--|
| 21 |  | <p><i>Collector Note reference page 7.</i></p> <p>The knife has a closed length of 4 3/8 inches (11.1cm), has what appear to be jigged bone scales, brass liners, a sheepfoot blade, a tin opener, a copper shackle, and a corkscrew. The only stamp is "ALLEN GLASGOW" on the mark side tang of the blade. The sheepfoot blade suggests Boer War era.</p> |
| 22 |  | <p><i>Collector Note reference page 25.</i></p> <p>The mark side tang of the blade is stamped "HARRISON BROTHERS & HOWSON", and the pile side tang is stamped "SHEFFIELD ENGLAND".</p> |
| 23 |  | <p><i>Collector Note reference page 21.</i></p> <p>The mark side tang is stamped "No 6 NORFOLK STREET SHEFFIELD ENGLAND" which is normally associated with a 'Joseph Rodgers & Sons' blade stamp, but not on this blade. The mark side tang of the tin opener is stamped "RODGERS CUTLERS TO HER MAJESTY".</p> <p>The scale is engraved as follows: "Cpl F Higginbottom 201228 2/4 York & Lancs, Hallamshire". Even though the knife has a "Her Majesty" tang stamp, based on the service number stamped on the scale, Higginbottom was a soldier in the First World War.</p> |
| <p>TYPE 7: Military style horsemen's knives</p> <p>The knives display a simplified more utilitarian version of the sportsman's knife to specifically serve the needs of mounted troops in the field.</p> | | |
| 24 |  | <p><i>Collector Note reference page 6.</i></p> <p>The knife has a closed length of 4 1/2 inches (11.5cm), has black chequered horn scales, a main sheepfoot blade and a pen blade, tin opener, corkscrew, awl, reamer, hoof cleaning hook, and trace repair bolts, and is normally found with a leather pouch suitable for attaching to a belt. The main blade and pen blade have the "TRUSTWORTHY M" logo stamped above "MAPPIN & WEBB SHEFFIELD" on the mark side tang. The tin opener has the "TRUSTWORTHY M" logo</p> |

| | | | |
|--|----|--|--|
| | 25 |  | <p><i>Collector Note reference page 6.</i></p> <p>The main blade is stamped on the face “[logo] J. NOWILL & SONS [logo] and on the tang “J. NOWILL & SONS SHEFFIELD ENGLAND”, whereas the tang stamps on the pen blade and the tin opener have been purposefully scratched out. Stylistically, thus knife is very similar to the Mappin & Webb knife above, although with a spearpoint main blade, and with a closed length of 4 3/8 inches (11.1cm) it is slightly shorter.</p> |
| | 26 |  | <p><i>Collector Note reference page 17.</i></p> <p>With a closed length of 4 3/4 inches (12.1cm) it is slightly larger than the standard ‘all metal multiblade sportsmen’s knife’. The main blade mark side tang is partially worn off however it would have been “No. 6 NORFOLK STREET SHEFFIELD” and the blade face would have been stamped “JOSEPH RODGERS & SONS”. Both the pen blade and the button hook are stamped “RODGERS CUTLERS TO HIS MAJESTY” on the mark side tang indicating a date of manufacture after 1901 following the death of Queen Victoria.</p> <p>The pen blade is broken to half its length.</p> |
| <p>TYPE 8: Horsemen’s knives with marline spike</p> <p>These knives have the same general characteristics as the ‘Military style horsemen’s knives’ detailed immediately above, except a marline spike has been introduced – perhaps in recognition of the need for a wider flexibility of use. This is consistent with the pattern 6353/1905 knife, which was a standard ‘issue’ knife for military personnel, which included a marline spike.</p> | | | |
| | 27 |  | <p><i>Collector Note reference page 21.</i></p> <p>The knife has a closed length of 4 1/2 inches (11.5cm) and has the maker’s name “[flag logo] CHRIS. JOHNSON WESTERN WORKS SHEFFIELD” stamped on the main blade tang and on the tin opener tang. The scales are nickel silver, and it has one brass liner and one heavy steel liner. It includes a hoof pick that sits within the frame of the knife when in the closed position, rather than sitting proud of the frame.</p> |

28



Collector Note reference page 23.

This is a high-quality knife with a closed length of 4 ½ inches (11.5cm). It has nickel silver scales and liner; the main blade is stamped on the face "[logo] J. NOWILL & SONS [logo]" and on the tang "J. NOWILL & SONS SHEFFIELD ENGLAND". It also includes a hoof pick that sits within the frame of the knife when in the closed position rather than sitting proud of the frame.

The name of the original owner "J. DE HAILES" is stamped on the scale.

TYPE 9: Large three blade clasp knives with marline spike

These Knives have the same characteristics as the standard WW1 military issue pattern 6353/1905 knife but are not copies. Instead, they are a higher quality alternative aimed at the 'private purchase' market.

29



Collector Note reference page 15.

This knife has "WHEATLEY BROTHERS SHEFFIELD" stamped on the mark side tang and "WHEAT [logo] SHEAF KNIFE" stamped on the blade face. It has a closed length of 4 ¾ inches (12.1cm) and stag scales.

30












Collector Note reference page 16.

This knife is stamped "T. TURNER & CO. CUTLERS TO HIS MAJESTY" on the mark side tang and has "Rd. No. 551515" stamped on the pile side tang which dates it to 1910. It has a closed length of 4 ¾ inches (12.1cm) and stag scales. It is not certain that the copper bail is original.

TYPE 10: Sportsmen's knives with marline spike

These knives have the same general characteristics as the 'horsemen's knives with marline spike' detailed above, except that all of the features needed by 'horsemen' have been removed and a marline spike has been introduced – perhaps in recognition of the need for a wider flexibility of use. This is consistent with the pattern 6353/1905 knife, which was the standard 'issue' knife for military personnel, which included a marline spike.

| | | |
|---|--|--|
| 31 |  | <p><i>Collector Note reference page 22.</i></p> <p>This knife has a closed length of 4 ¾ inches (12.1cm), nickel silver scales and a steel liner. The main blade tang is stamped "SUTHERLAND & RHODEN SHEFFIELD", and the pen blade similarly stamped.</p> |
| 32 |  | <p>This knife is not referenced in the Collector Note as it <u>lacks a tin opener</u>. It does however include a marline spike that is also a characteristic of 'private purchase' knives. The blade face is stamped "A. W. STANIFORTH CUTLER CARDIFF". It has a closed length of 4 7/8 inches (12.4cm) and has heavy nickel silver scales and a brass liner.</p> |
| 33 |  | <p><i>Collector Note reference page 22.</i></p> <p>This knife has a closed length if 4 ½ inches (11.5cm). The tang of the main blade and is stamped "JOHN WATTS SHEFFIELD ENGLAND" and the nickel silver scale is stamped with the faux hallmark trademark of B4*ANY. The same scale is also stamped with a registered design number being: "Rd. No. 642132" which indicates a date of 1912.</p> |
| <p>TYPE 11: Small clasp knives with marline spike</p> <p>This pattern appears to have evolved from the various small clasp knives that were popular in the Boer War. At the start of the 1st World War a 2-blade clasp knife (main blade and tin opener) was produced in vast quantities by most Sheffield manufacturers – probably as military contracts and are known to collectors as the 'gift knife'. The following knives appear to be a higher quality and more useful alternative to the 'gift knife' aimed at the 'private purchase market. There are two version: one with a standard marline spike, and another with an improved (i.e. four-cornered) leather borer that was possibly considered to be a more versatile tool than the marline spike. All knives in the group have a close length of approximately 3 ¾ – 4 1/8 inches (9.5 – 10.5cm).</p> | | |
| 34 |  | <p><i>Collector Note reference page 23.</i></p> <p>This is the Thomas Turner & Co. 'war knife' which on the reverse side scale is stamped "1914 DURALUMIN WAR KNIFE". The blade tang has "THOMAS TURNER & Co. SHEFFIELD ENGLAND" together with the company logo and "ENCORE" stamped at right-angle. This pattern is assumed to have directly evolved from Turner's Boer War 'Lord Mayor's Knife'.</p> |

| | | |
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| 35 |  | <p><i>Collector Note reference page 23</i></p> <p>This knife is identical the knife immediately above. The main blade face is stamped “[logo] MAPPIN & WEBB SHEFFIELD” and the pile side tang is stamped “MAPPIN & WEBB. There is no stamping or inscription on the reverse side scale.</p> |
| 36 |  | <p><i>Collector Note reference page 24.</i></p> <p>The mark side tang of the main blade is stamped “CHAS. CLEMENTS” and the pile side tang is stamped “SHEFFIELD”. Clements was a London retailer with several outlets at the time of WW1. The knife was made for Clements by a Sheffield manufacturer</p> |
| 37 |  | <p><i>Collector Note reference page 24.</i></p> <p>This John Watts knife has a different style of tin opener and is of all-steel construction - apart from the metal alloy shackle (probably brass). The tang of the main blade is stamped “JOHN WATTS SHEFFIELD ENGLAND” and the scale on the obverse side is stamped with the Watts faux hallmark trademark of B4*ANY.</p> |
| 38 |  | <p>The tang of the main blade is stamped “JOHN WATTS SHEFFIELD ENGLAND” and the nickel silver scale on the obverse side is stamped with the Watts faux hallmark trademark of B4*ANY. The closed length is 4 ¼ inches (10.8cm).</p> <p>The main blade is broken at half its length.</p> |
| 39 |  | <p><i>Collector Note reference page 24</i></p> <p>This John Watts knife is identical with the one above, but ½ inch shorter at 3 ¾ inches (9.5cm) closed. The tang of the main blade is stamped “JOHN WATTS SHEFFIELD ENGLAND” and the nickel silver scale on the obverse side is stamped with the Watts faux hallmark trademark of B4*ANY.</p> |

40



Collector Note reference page 25

This is a simpler version of the other knives in this group in that it lacks a marline spike and has a closed length of 3 5/8 inches (9.2cm). The tang of the main blade is stamped "JOHN WATTS SHEFFIELD ENGLAND" and the nickel silver scale on the obverse side is stamped with the Watts faux hallmark trademark of B4*ANY.

TYPE 12: Horsemen's multiblade utility knives

These knives are distinguishable from the more common '6-blade utility knives' described later as that they have three backsprings and a hoof pick. The stubby file/turnscrew appears to be a common characteristic however the button hook is perhaps optional. It is probable that these knives date from the Boer War era.

41



Collector Note reference page 20.

This knife has the main blade mark side tang stamped "TAYLOR SHEFFIELD" and the other three blades all have [eye logo] WITNESS SHEFFIELD on the mark side tang. It has a closed length of 4 inches (10.1cm) and nickel silver scales and liner. It also includes a hoof pick that sits within the frame of the knife when in the closed position, rather than sitting proud of the frame as with the traditional 'all metal multiblade sportsman's knife'

42










Collector Note reference page 20.

The tangs of the main blade and pen blade of this knife are stamped "JOHN WATTS SHEFFIELD ESTB. 1765". The nickel silver scale is stamped with the faux hallmark trademark of B4*ANY. With a closed length of 3 1/2 inches (8.9cm) it is smaller than the Taylor knife above, however it does include a hoof pick - that sits within the frame of the knife when in the closed position.

TYPE 13: Sportsmen's multiblade utility knives – with button hook & cartridge extractor

These knives have characteristics in-common with the 'Horsemen's multiblade utility knives' described above, particularly three backsprings. The absence of tools that are useful to horsemen and the inclusion of a cartridge extractor however define them as small sportsmen's knives. These knives date from the Boer War era.

| | | | |
|--|----|--|---|
| | 43 |  | <p><i>Collector Note reference page 10.</i></p> <p>This is a high-quality knife that has a closed length of 3 ½ inches (8.8cm), stag scales, milled brass liners, a main blade and pen blade, scissors, button hook, tin-opener, reamer, screwdriver, cartridge extractor, and slide-out tweezers and pricker. The main blade mark side tang is stamped "HARRODS BROMPTON Rd. S. W." and the pile side tang is stamped with the George Ibberson & Co. violin logo (which was acquired by Butler in c.1882) and SHEFFIELD. All the other blades are stamped "HARRODS LTD."</p> |
| | 44 |  | <p><i>Collector Note reference page 10.</i></p> <p>This is also a high-quality knife with a closed length of 3 ½ inches (8.8cm), ivory scales, milled brass liners, a main blade and pen blade, scissors, button hook, tin-opener, reamer, screwdriver, cartridge extractor, the slide-out tweezers and pricker are missing. The main blade, pen blade and the button hook are stamped "DOBIE GLASGOW" on the mark side tang. The main blade is also stamped "KLOSSKUT" on the pile side tang. It may also have been manufactured in Sheffield by George Butler & Co</p> |
| <p>TYPE 14: Six-blade utility knives – with button hook or file/turnscrew</p> <p>The 6-blade utility knife appears to have emerged during the early 1900s; two examples are shown on page 22 of the Joseph Rodgers c.1912 trade catalogue (see Appendix 3 – patterns p.1976 and p.1977), and increased in popularity in the decades following the end of the 1st World War. The war years knives are characterised by the inclusion of a button hook or file/turnscrew, but both items were absent from 6-blade utility knives that date from the end of the 1st World War. The knives vary in length from 3 ½ inches (8.8cm) closed to 4 ½ inches (11.5cm) closed.</p> | | | |
| | 45 |  | <p><i>Collector Note reference page 19.</i></p> <p>This is a high-quality knife with ivory scales and brass liners and a closed length of 4 inches (10.1cm). The main blade, pen blade and tin opener are all stamped SINGLETON & PRIESTMAN SHEFFIELD, and the button hook is stamped "OIL THE JOINTS'.</p> |

| | | | |
|--|----|--|--|
| | 46 |  | <p><i>Collector Note reference page 19.</i></p> <p>This knife has the main blade mark side tang stamped "TAYLOR SHEFFIELD" and the other three blades all have [eye logo] WITNESS SHEFFIELD on the mark side tang. It has a closed length of 4 inches (10.1cm) and nickel silver scales and liner.</p> <p>The reverse side scale is engraved "PVTE. E GREGORY. 1/3RD W.R. FIELD AMB."</p> |
| | 47 |  | <p><i>Collector Note reference page 19.</i></p> <p>This knife is identical to the TAYLOR knife above in appearance but is of a more lightweight construction, for example the metal scales appear to be half the thickness of the TAYLOR Knife. The only stamping is on the mark side tang of the main blade: "MADE IN SHEFFIELD", and the pen blade and the button hook have "OIL THE JOINTS" stamped on their mark side tangs.</p> |
| | 48 |  | <p><i>Collector Note reference page 18</i></p> <p>This is a high-quality knife with stag scales and milled brass liners. All blades are stamped "G IBBERSON & Co SHEFFIELD ENG" and the main blade also has the violin logo and "SHEFFIELD MADE" on the pile side tang.</p> |
| | 49 |  | <p><i>Collector Note reference page 18.</i></p> <p>All four blades are stamped "C. BARRETT & Co. BURLINGTON ARCADE W. 1." on the mark side tang, and the main blade has SHEFFIELD MADE stamped on the pile side tang.</p> |

50



Collector Note reference page 19.

At 4 3/8 inches closed, this knife is larger than the others in this group, and the style of the tin opener is not one that is shown in any of the other knives. It is the inclusion of the stubby turnscrew/file that suggests it dates from the WW1 era. All four blades have the mark side tangs stamped "W. MORTON & SONS SHEFFIELD" and the pile side tangs are stamped with the Morton scales logo.

TYPE 15: Take-apart knife

51



Collector Note reference page 25.

This is a two-piece 'take-apart' knife with a closed length of 3 3/4 inches (9.5cm) and has nickel silver scales and liners. The main blade and the tin opener are both stamped on the mark side tang "SINGLETON & PRIESTMAN SHEFFIELD". It also has a toggle on one end. (in lieu of a shackle) that would presumably enable it to be secured to a lanyard or similar.

TYPE 16: Six-blade utility Knives – post 1st World War




Differentiating between utility knives that were associated with the Boer War/1st World war era and the post-war era is difficult – as is explained in the introductory paragraphs of the section on "Post-First World War" (page 25) of this Collector Note. The primary difference between utility knives of the two eras is the redesign of the stubby turnscrew/file to incorporate a cap lifter for removing crown seals from drink bottles. The following group of five knives are all "six blade utility knives" having a closed length of 4 – 4 1/2 inches (10.1 – 11.5cm), and all include a combination screwdriver/cap lifter blade in addition to a tin opener.

52



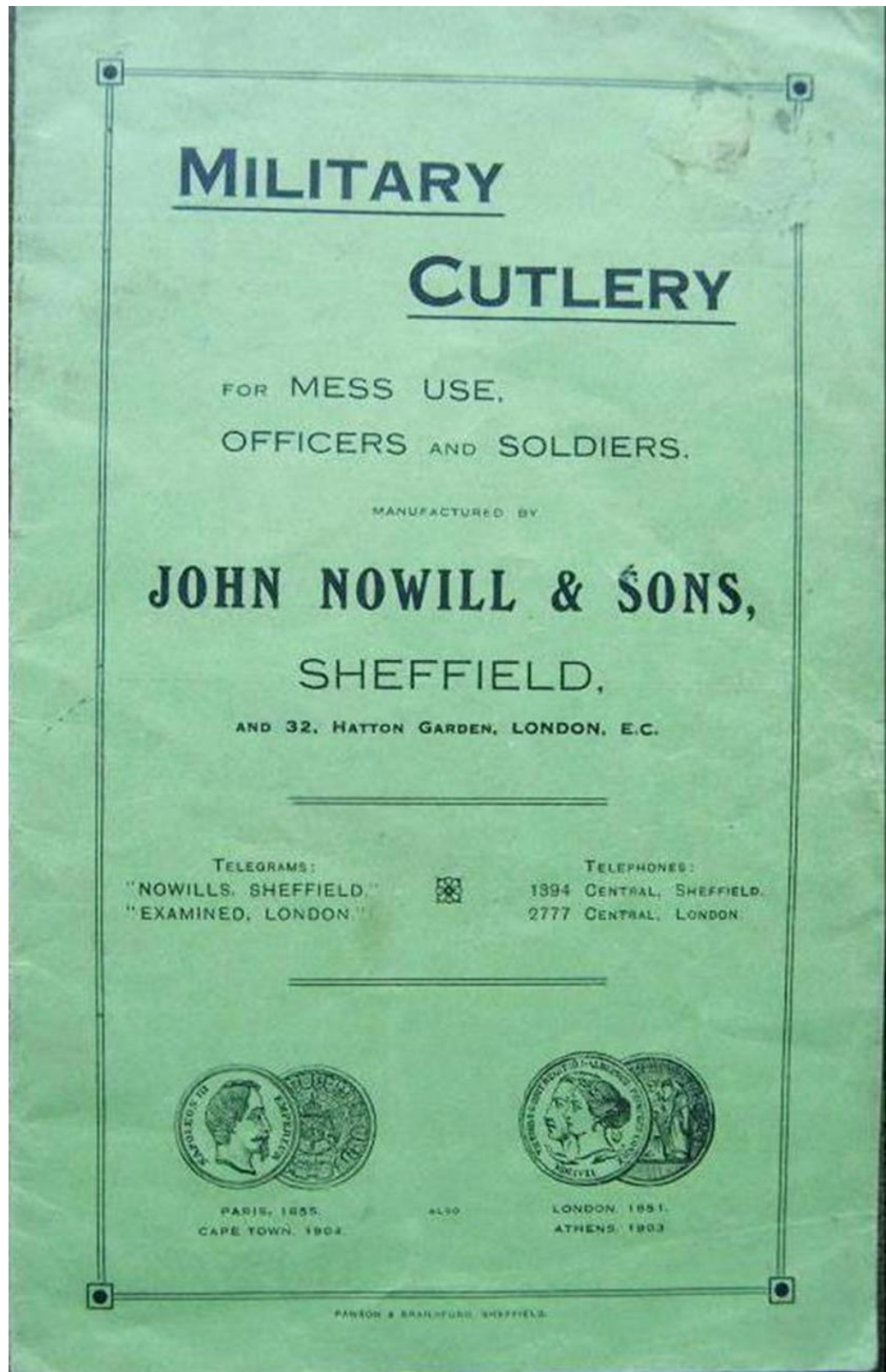
Collector Note reference page 28.

The face of the main blade of this knife is stamped "ROBINSON SHEFFIELD" together with their 'GRINDER' logo. The mark side tang is stamped "HERBERT ROBINSON SHEFFIELD" and the pile side tang is stamped "HAND FORGED". The tangs of the pen blade are similarly stamped. The knife has nickel silver scales and liner. The reverse scale is engraved with the owner's name "R. L. DOWNING".

| | | |
|----|---|---|
| 53 |  | <p><i>Collector Note reference page 29.</i></p> <p>This knife appears to have jugged bone scales dyed to resemble stag, and brass liners. Both the main blade and the pen blade are stamped "G. BUTLER & Co. SHEFFIELD"</p> |
| 54 |  | <p><i>Collector Note reference page 29.</i></p> <p>The main blade of this knife is stamped "J. MORTON & SONS SHEFFIELD" on the mark side tang. The pen blade has the Morton 'scales' logo on the mark side tang. The tin opener has "J. MORTON & SONS SHEFFIELD" on the mark side tang. This 'claw' style of tin opener is commonly found on Morton utility knives</p> |
| 55 |  | <p><i>Collector Note reference page 29.</i></p> <p>This knife has stag scales and brass liners and with a closed length of 4 inches (10.1cm) is slightly larger than the previous three knives. The mark side tang of the main blade is stamped "[key logo] G. BUTLER & Co." and the pile side tang is stamped "SHEFFIELD [ART logo] ENGLAND. The pen blade, the tin opener and the cap lifter tangs are similarly stamped.</p> |

APPENDIX 5: JOHN NOWILL & SONS "MILITARY CUTLERY" March 1916

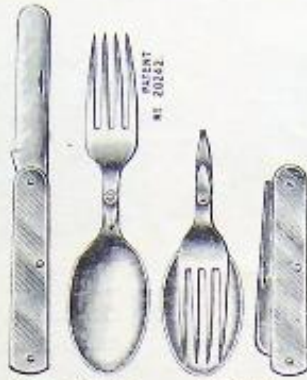
— courtesy of UK collector and researcher Mike Convy (aka "Jocknife").



JOHN NOWILL & SONS, SHEFFIELD, ENGLAND.



Folded Knife, Fork and Spoon in strong brown leather purse with ring attachment and loop at back for belt.



Open for use. Folded.



- 14401 Kit complete 56/-
- 14402 Knife only 30/-
- 14403 Spoon and Fork only .. 18/-

14404 61/-
If in Purse as illustrated, 79/-



14405
48/-



14406
54/-



14407
62/-



- 14408 Ordinary quality .. 12/-
- 14409 Best 16/-



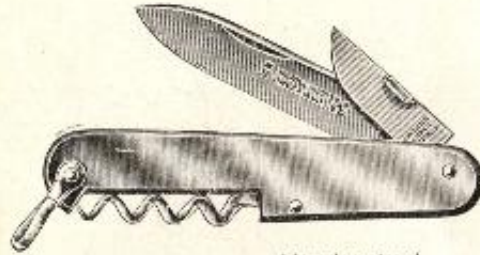
14410 Knife, Fork and Spoon,
25/-



14411 Knife, Fork and Spoon,
35/-

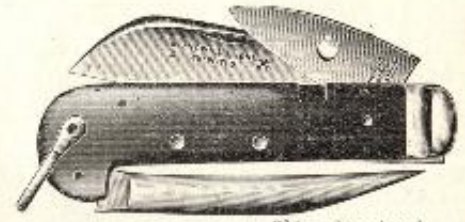
The above are priced per Dozen.

JOHN NOWILL & SONS, SHEFFIELD, ENGLAND.



4 in. when closed.

- 14412 As illustrated.. .. 96/-
 14413 Without Tin Opener 67/-



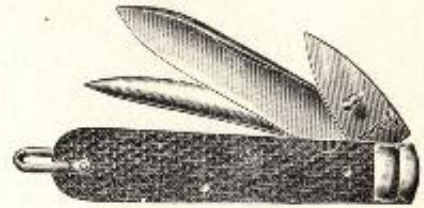
8½ in. when closed.

- 14414 As illustrated, Buffalo or P.H. .. 32/-
 14414½ Corkscrew instead of Spike .. 64/-
 14415 Without Tin Opener, Buffalo or P.H. 29/-

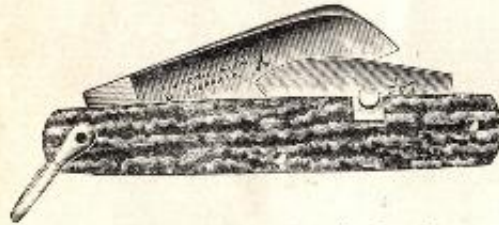


4 in. when closed.

- 14416 Bone Stag 34/-
 P. Horn 35/-

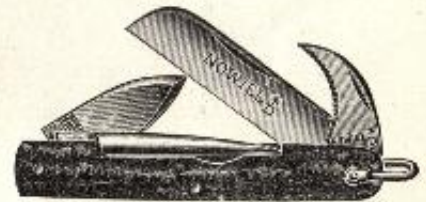


- 14417 4 inch 48/-
 14418 4¾ inch.. .. 72/-



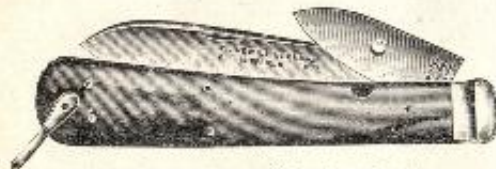
4 in. when closed.

- 14419 Real Stag 39/-
 14420 Nickel 38/-
 14419½ Long Spear Blade .. 43/-
 14420½ 42/-



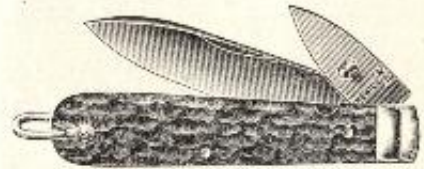
4 in. when closed.

- 14421 Real Stag 72/-
 14422 Nickel 68/-



4½ in. when closed.

- 14423 Buffalo or Pressed Horn, 47/-
 14313 (1 Blade only) 32/-
 14314 (2 Blades) 48/-



4 in. when closed.

- 14424 Bone Stag, 33/-; P. Horn, 34/-

The above are priced per Dozen.

JOHN NOWILL & SONS, SHEFFIELD, ENGLAND.



14425 8½ in. when closed. 62/-



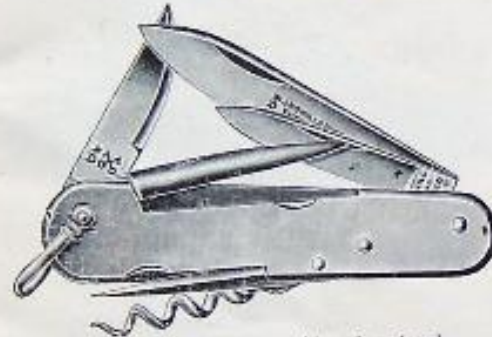
14426 4 in. when closed. 102/-



14427 4½ in. when closed. 180/-



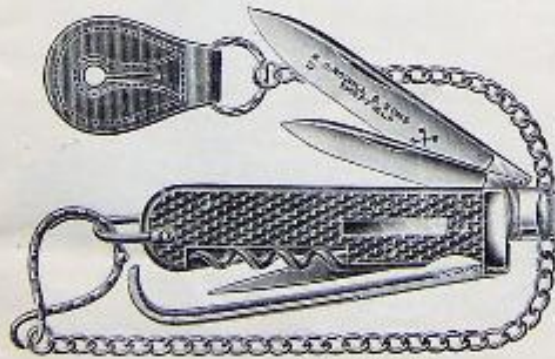
14428 4 in. when closed. 156/-



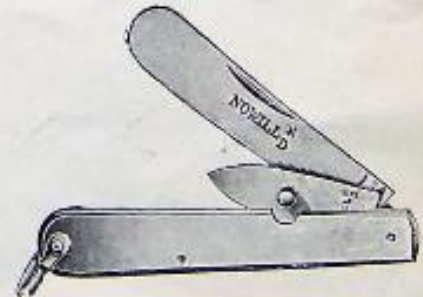
14429 4 in. when closed. 144/-



14430 8½ in. when closed.
Bone, 96/- Black, 96/- Stag, 102/-



14431 Knives only, Stag or P.H., 60/-
Chains, 24/-



14432 As Illustrated 45/-
14432½ Spear Blade 45/-
14433 Without Tin Opener .. 30/-
14433½ Spear Blade 30/-

The above are all priced per Dozen.

JOHN NOWILL & SONS, SHEFFIELD, ENGLAND.

14389 Finest quality, as illustrated, Stag or Cut Horn, with Leather Sheath

14440 Stag, ordinary quality

14441 Bone Stag " "

Clip or Spear Blades, same price

6 in. 13/- 7 in. 15/- 8 in. 17/6
 6 " 4/- 6 " 4/7 7 " 5/3
 5 " 3/8 6 " 4/2 7 " 4/9

14442 Ebony, 5/6

Handle, 4½ in.
 Blade, 4½ in.

Not allowed in Egypt

14443 7/6

Handle, 4 in.
 Blade, 5½ in.

14444 Ebony, 21/-

14445

Blade when open is locked.
 Stag or Cut Horn, 32/-

The above are priced per piece.

ENDNOTES

¹ Ron Flook "The London Knife Book – an A-Z listing of London Cutlers and Retailers" published by Antique Knives Ltd. 2008

² "History of the Can Opener Revised and Illustrated" by Samuel Hardman, copyright 2017
<https://taths.org.uk/images/TTArticles/Canopener/CanOpenerMayRevised2.pdf>

³ "Joseph Rodgers & Sons Cutlers" assume dated circa 1912. Catalog reprint by Adrian Van Dyk, undated

⁴ The word “Jack” is possibly derived from common usage as being ‘a knife for jack’ – “jack” being a slang word for a manual worker such as a lumberjack, steeplejack, jacktar, or “jack of all trades”, etc.

⁵ Ron Flook, *British and Commonwealth Military Knives*. Howell Press, 1999 (page 129)

⁶ Australian Military Knives: <http://www.australianmilitaryknives.com/>

⁷ Ron Flook, *British and Commonwealth Military Knives* – see previous Endnote v.

⁸ “Thomas Turner & Co.” catalogue (part) dated 1902. Internet download

⁹ Source: [http://www.bladeforums.com/forums/showthread.php/755317-Vintage-Knife-Catalogs-amp-Ads-\(Images-Only\)](http://www.bladeforums.com/forums/showthread.php/755317-Vintage-Knife-Catalogs-amp-Ads-(Images-Only)) Thread No. 20 posted by Wellington “These images are taken from the ARMY & NAVY STORES London 1907 catalogue; they show the entire range of pen and pocketknives retailed by the famous firm. Virtually all the knives they sold were made in Sheffield by makers such as Rodgers, Wostenholm, Thos. Turners etc.”

¹⁰ “Joseph Rodgers & Sons Cutlers” – see previous Endnote iii.

¹¹ Ron Flook “The London Knife Book” page 38 - – see previous Endnote i.

¹² “Cutlery Catalogue Thomas Turner & Co. (Sheffield) LTD.”

¹³ “Military Knives and Daggers of the World website” <http://gotavapen.se/market/viewtopic.php?f=86&t=1971> dated November 14, 2016

¹⁴ Ron Flook, *British and Commonwealth Military Knives*, see previous Endnote v.

¹⁵ Ron Flook “The London Knife Book” pages 38 – 40, see Endnote i.

¹⁶ Ron Flook “Knives and Daggers of the Special Operations Executive”. Privately published by the author as a limited edition in 2022.

¹⁷ Ron Flook “The London Knife Book” – see previous Endnote

¹⁸ “Black and White Budget” A Victorian era illustrated weekly printed and published by W.J.P. Monckton in London. Source: <https://angloboerwar.com/images/pdf/blackandwhite19000303.pdf>